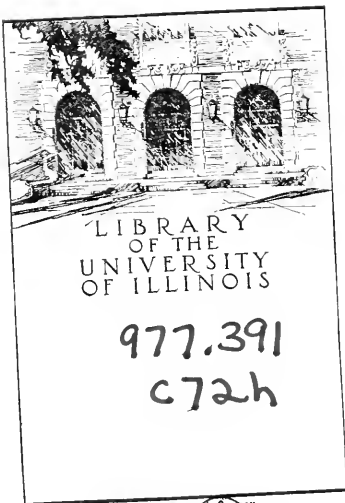


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Illinois Biological Survey



HISTORY of COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS



COLUMBIA'S  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

JULY 3, 4 and 5, 1959



HISTORY  
OF  
COLUMBIA AND COLUMBIA PRECINCT  
MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
1859       -       1959  
AND  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS  
JULY 3 - 4 - 5, 1959

## FOREWORD

**T**his year, 1959, marks the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Columbia, Illinois, as a town.

Because of this, we, on July 3, 4 and 5, 1959, formally celebrate this event by a Centennial celebration.

As a part of this celebration, a committee was appointed to write the history of Columbia.

The story of Columbia goes back far more than a hundred years, and the story would not be complete without the telling of our rich background of early history.

For it is a story of hardy pioneering, with sacrifices and heroism. It is a story, too, of simple virtues, lofty ideals and wholesome domestic life. Yet it is a story of civic and military achievements and trail blazing. Underneath it all is deep religious faith and the quest for education; and the establishment of businesses and commercial enterprises that make for better living.

In our Centennial year, we pause to reflect upon our heritage and to survey our future prospects.

By this Centennial celebration the people of Columbia wish to publicly express their appreciation for 100 years of blessings and success, and our deep gratitude to our forbears, even down to those in the dim and distant past whose bravery and fortitude made possible the Columbia of today.

To them, and to all the citizens of Columbia is this history dedicated.

Our people pledge anew that the Columbia of today and tomorrow shall measure in every respect with the hopes and ambitions which imbued its founders.



Mayor and City Council: Left to right, bottom row: Michael Steffenauer, Jos. J. Volkert, Jr., City Clerk; Albert C. Metter, Mayor; Carl Richert, City Treasurer; Henry Haberlah, Magistrate. Top row: William E. Landgraf, Wilbert Kremmel, George J. Van Luik, Arthur Beckmann, Warren Bergmann.



Centennial Officers and Directors: Mrs. C. L. Volkert, Mrs. Dorothy Eppinger, C. A. Hacker, Arthur P. Wink, A. C. Metter, Miss Ruth Kuergeleis, Mrs. Gerard Dundon. Top row: Mrs. Melvin Gasser, Roy P. Conrad, Walter F. Giffhorn, Herbert J. Voigt, B. D. Middleton, Charles J. Grueninger, Mrs. Raymond Krenmel. Officers are: Arthur P. Wink, President; C. A. Hacker, Vice President; Miss Ruth Kuergeleis, Secretary; Mrs. Gerard Dundon, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Dorothy Eppinger, Treasurer. Leo A. Wellbacher, Sr. is a director but was not present for picture.



The above is the Historical Committee from left to right, bottom row: Mrs. Ella Rose Rohm, Mrs. Lottie Henckler, Arthur P. Wink, Mrs. C. L. Volkert, Albert C. Metter, Mrs. Bertha Arnin Schoening, Miss Ernestine C. Smith; top row: Mrs. Viola Rapp Rueck, Mrs. Florence E. Haberl, F. W. Weinel, Victor Breidecker, Carl Reis, B. D. Middleton, Herbert J. Vogt, Jack Divers, C. A. Hacker, Mrs. Anna Belle Compton, Elmer Janson, Bertha Kunz Arnin, Walter F. Giffhorn, Mrs. Irene Haberl. Dorothy Weinel Eppinger and Leo Weilbacher, Sr. are members, but not present.

The Historical Committee appointed by Mayor A. C. Metter and approved by the City Council at the regular meeting March 2, 1959 for further historical research after

the Centennial is over, includes the above named committee, and Ex-Officio Members, Mayor and City Council; Honorary members, Ex-village trustees, Edmund L. Rauch, Theodore Ludwig, Daniel Daab and Louis Landgraf and Ex-Village Clerk, Philip Ludwig.

To the right is a part of the Centennial Style Show cast taken at the home of Style Show Chairman Mrs. Melvin Gasser. Notice the beautiful doorway of the Gasser home. Front row, left to right: Lester Deffenbaugh, Mary Reyling, Mrs. Erwin Kossina, Mrs. Marvin Deem.

Middle row: Mrs. Wm. Klein and Mrs. Clifford Ludwig.

Back row: Joe Avellone, Arthur P. Wink, Mrs. Melvin Gasser, Kenneth G. Haller, Mrs. Eugene Luhr and Al Kish.





**CENTENNIAL STYLE SHOW**



**CITY EMPLOYEES**

Bottom row, left to right: James Mahoney, General Supt. Utilities and Streets; Leo Koberlein; Police Sgt. Alfred Descher; Chief of Police C. L. Volkert; Theodore Klein, 1st Asst. Fire Chief; Jacob Steppig, Fire Chief; 2nd Asst. Fire Chief, Clemence Metter. Back row, left to right: Walter Giffhorn, Jr.; Erwin Kossina, General Maintenance; Mrs. Clifford Haberl, Asst. Librarian; Donald Stumpf, General Maintenance; Mrs. T. B. Henderson, Librarian; Ernestine C. Smith, Chief Control Room Operator; William Riebeling, Control Room Operator; Mrs. Olga Nollau, Control Room Operator; Margaret Volkert, Custodian City Hall; Alvin G. Klein, Asst. City Clerk and Asst. City Collector.

### **SCHIEMER INSURANCE AGENCY**

On March 10, 1923, Charles L. Schiemer founded the Schiemer Insurance Agency, soliciting all forms of insurance in Columbia and the surrounding area. The office was located in his home at 509 North Metter Avenue.

On April 7, 1938, the agency was licensed to sell real estate.

In 1940 a subdivision known as "Columbia Acres" was developed.

Through the years his sons joined him in the business and on September 1, 1955, the business was incorporated under the name of Schiemer Insurance Agency, Inc.

In order to accommodate their clients and maintain efficiency, the First National Bank Building, located at 102 South Main Street in Columbia was purchased, which gave all the facilities necessary to service their clients. The building has a vault to protect their records against fire and windstorm. The grand opening of the office was held in December of 1955.

The founder, Charles L. Schiemer, died on September 28, 1958. The present officers of the firm are Carl L. Schiemer and Robert H. Schiemer.



**"THE SPRING OF LASTING WATER"**

## HISTORY OF COLUMBIA, MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Columbia, in Eagle precinct until March 15, 1875, when the precinct name was changed to Columbia, was laid out in 1820, incorporated as a Town in 1859 under a special Act of the 31st General Assembly of the State of Illinois, approved by Governor William H. Bissell, who was elected from Monroe County; changed to a Village in 1903, and to a City under the aldermanic form of government in 1927.

Columbia is situated in the northeastern part of Columbia precinct, near the center of Township 1 South, Range 10 West of the third principal meridian. The southeastern part is the oldest, and was laid out on the land of Louis Nolan in 1820. Wilson and Gardner laid out lots near the center of town in 1849. Columbia was surveyed and platted by John B. Whiteside, but not recorded.

The above is the legal description. To the layman, Columbia is fourteen miles south of downtown St. Louis on Illinois routes 3 and 158, and U. S. route 50. It is one mile from the Jefferson Barracks Bridge road, gateway to the West and the great new industrial areas of St. Louis County, Missouri.

A new by-pass enables traffic to skirt Columbia. It thus becomes a quiet, residential suburb within easy commuting distance of a great metropolis, St. Louis, Mo., and the industrial East Side.

Columbians have always prided themselves on their homes and gardens, and that is as true today as it was in 1859. Amongst the many modern, new homes are the ones of other generations, all well kept, each with a garden. There are many houses older than the city itself. These are architecturally beautiful and still a joy to owners and beholders.

Although Columbia is in the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area, it still retains its quaint, old world charm. It is Columbia's heritage from the early pioneers and the sturdy Germans who settled here in the early 1800's.

Each brought with them the remembered beauty of their home lands and incorporated a part of it in Columbia, their "land of the free and the home of the brave."

### WHAT IS HISTORY?

Webster's dictionary says: "History is a narrative, written or oral, especially a systematic narrative of events, and circumstances relating to man and his social or civic condition." Macaulay, the great English historian has said, "The history of a country is best told in the lives of its people."

Agreeing with these ideas, it is our purpose to weave into the dates of history the story of the people who founded Columbia. How they built it from an almost trackless wilderness by slow and painful degrees into the Columbia we know today. In the process we will try to understand why Columbia is what it is and where it is.

### WE ROLL BACK THE SCROLL OF TIME

The Mound Builders undoubtedly were Columbia's first citizens. They were so-called because they built mounds in North America chiefly centered in the valleys of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. These mounds can still be seen near Columbia at Bixby and Fish Lake. The mounds here were apparently garden plots where maize and other crops were raised. Their tops were flat to make cultivation easier. In flat lands these mounds averted the disaster of floods and excess moisture. It is possible these garden mounds were surrounded by stakes to prevent the crops from being destroyed by great herds of bison and deer that roamed the country.

The Mound Builders were Indians, ethnologists now agree, rather than people of a mysterious culture who preceded the Indians, as was originally thought. Columbus, when he discovered America, named the early inhabitants Indians, for he mistook the new continent for India.

Indians who built the mounds are believed to have inhabited the area from the eighth or ninth century before the arrival of the earliest French settlers.

The Mound Builders here were succeeded by the Kickapoo Indians who were hunters and warriors. They were marauders and savages indeed. They belonged to the Illinois confederacy which included the Mehigamas, Eastaskias, the Kahokias, the Peorias, the Tananias, the Saacs and Foxes, the Wanchagias, the Piankashaws, the Potawatomes and the Shawnees.

## THE FIRST WHITE MEN

Probably the first white men to see what is now Columbia precinct were the French. These two men were Pere Jacques Marquette, a missionary priest and Louis Jolliet, an explorer. This was in 1673. Jolliet was born in Canada and had gone far in the wilderness around the Great Lakes. He had heard the Indians tell about a big river named the Mississippi and he was eager to find out where it reached the ocean. The French governor of Quebec, Count Frontenac, under orders from the King of France, told Jolliet to explore it. With Jolliet went Father Marquette, for he knew the Indian language, and hoped to convert the Indians to Christianity. In 1673 they floated down the Mississippi in two canoes after portaging from one river to another to reach the Mississippi. They must have floated down past the western boundary of Columbia precinct, to become the first white men to see Columbia.

Other Frenchmen followed. Count Frontenac knew that the rich fur trade would have to be protected against hostile Indians and other enemies and so did a great soldier, Robert Cavalier Sieur de la Salle. He dreamed of a vast empire stretching all the way from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, to be called New France. He proposed to bring settlers from Europe to colonize it. He too must have floated past Columbia on his voyage down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. Returning, he placed his good friend Henri de Tonti, an Italian, in charge. Tonti guided missionaries who came from Quebec to establish missions among the Indians at Cahokia in 1699.

## OLD AND NEW KASKASKIA

Four years later in 1703 the missionaries established the Mission of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin on the Mississippi River, sixty miles below Cahokia, at the Indian village of Kaskaskia, again floating past Columbia.

This was not a flourishing mission so the priests in charge and the Kaskaskia Indians started down the Illinois river expecting to continue their journey down the Mississippi to the new settlements. But when they reached the head of the island of Kaskaskia they crossed over the narrow neck which separated the Mississippi from the Okaw and settled on the bank of the Okaw. Here they founded the first permanent settlement in Illinois. This village became the new Kaskaskia. This settlement grew and soon became known by all travellers passing up and down the Mississippi.

History records few French people in Columbia, and no permanent French settlers. The French possessed Illinois until 1765 but they were lax in holding their territory, and at the close of Europe's Seven Year War the French ceded their holdings to the British.

For a few years the British flag flew in Illinois until George Rogers Clark captured Kaskaskia in the name of the immortal Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia. The hauling down of the British flag is a dramatic story. Clark had persuaded Patrick Henry to let him take his 175 men, his "Long Knives", Kentuckians, so designated because of the ferocity of their fighting, to capture the outpost at Kaskaskia, the farthest British post in the Illinois country. Leaving their boats at the present site of Metropolis, Illinois, they started on foot along the old Indian trail to Kaskaskia, and announced to the startled village that Illinois now belonged to America. This was on July 4, 1778. No one resisted Clark when he hauled

down the British flag. Then he captured the British fort at Vincennes. Some of Clark's men, under the command of Captain Bowman journeyed over the now famous Kaskaskia Trail through Columbia. Clark, however, was not with the group, but some of the early settlers of Columbia were.

They went back to Virginia and told their families and friends about the lands they had seen and many pioneers began preparing for the hazardous journey to the new land of their choice.

## EARLY IMMIGRANTS BEGAN TO ARRIVE

These Virginia immigrants who had come from the fertile fields of England, the green valleys of Ireland, the picturesque plains of Wales, and the moors and fens of Scotland settled the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. Those who came to Monroe County came from Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. The early eastern immigrants were from families of wealth in their native countries. They established large plantations or estates, taking hundreds of acres of ground.

Immigrants coming later found no ground for a home, so they pushed on into Kentucky looking for land. The mountains there did not furnish the kind of land they wanted. They wanted a home and land to till, so they went on into Ohio, down the Ohio river to the Mississippi and crossed into Illinois. Remembering the stories that Clark's men told of the fine land here near what is now Columbia they decided to settle here. Here were clear, cold streams in plenty, so that water was no problem. Everything was heavily wooded so that trees could be cut for homes and burned for fuel. In the forest game abounded to stock the family larder. The lakes in the neighborhood teemed with fish. Here stretched away acres of potentially rich farm land bordering the banks of the mighty Father of Waters. Aeons before, a slow-moving glacier of the Ice Age engineered the bed for the Mississippi to flow in—thirty miles of it in Monroe county. But the Bottom land was low, subject to floods and plagued with blood-thirsty mosquitoes. Poisonous snakes lurked in the undrained Bottoms. Miasmatic vapors hung over the rich land and the settlers thought they gave them the "aggers and fever".

But there on a rise between the Bottom and the nearly 700 feet bluffs lay a plateau, 509 feet above sea level, which, safe from floods, protected from storms by a rise of hills on the north and east would make a good site for homes. This site, which is now Columbia, had an abundance of clear, spring water. They probably reasoned this was the logical place to settle and found a permanent village.

In the Bottom lay the rich alluvial soil for raising crops if they were venturesome, and dared defy the oft-flooding Mississippi. On the hills above the river were deep layers of loess soil if they were of a conservative bent.

The only established road through the wilderness was the old Kaskaskia Trail, which wended its leisurely way through what is now Columbia. Though only a footpath of the Indians, this road must have seemed a wonderful thing, for the settlers had practically cut their way through the wilderness from Virginia and Kentucky and into Illinois. The Trail was probably a deciding factor in their settling of Columbia.

## SETTLEMENT OF WHITESIDE STATION

The oldest permanently settled place in what is now Columbia precinct was established by the Flanneries. It became known as Whiteside Station. In 1793 the Whitesides came from Kentucky. They were born and raised on the frontiers of North Carolina and immigrated to Kentucky. The patriarch and leader, William Whiteside, had been a celebrated soldier in the Revolutionary War and was in the famous battle of King's Mountain. He came to Illinois as captain of a company of mounted rangers and immediately began the protection and defense of the settlers. His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, the next year after the arrival of the family, became the wife of John Moore. Their first child, Sebastian, was born in 1795. The same year, John D. Whiteside, youngest child of William and Mary Whiteside was born. These children were presumably the first white children to be born in the precinct. He and his relatives built a fort in section 26 Township 1 Range 10 west on the St. Louis and Waterloo road, a little southeast of Columbia. It is part of the farm of Robert J. Friedrich now.

The forts sometimes consisted of a single block house, the second story projecting over the first with holes in the floor through which to shoot at Indians attempting to enter the lower story. The lower floor had portholes through which to fire and strong puncheon doors 3 or 4 inches thick. Sometimes there were block houses at four corners with uprights of wood to make a high fence. When Indians appeared everyone in the surrounding territory went into the block houses. It probably was the larger block house the Whitesides built, for their family was numerous. There were William and Mary Whiteside, Johnson D., Uel, Davis, Samuel, John L. and John D. Other people who came to the fort for protection were Samuel Judy, Isaac Enochs, John Porter and John Dempsey and their families.

In 1795 Captain Whiteside gathered to his standard his small but trusty company: Samuel and William Whiteside, Samuel Judy, Isaac Enochs, Johnson D. Whiteside and others—fourteen in all—and attacked and killed a camp of Indians of considerable number. The French at Cahokia told him the Indians had assembled at the Bluff to attack him and his property. He was wounded in battle, presumably mortally, but his son Uel, whose arm was disabled so he could not use his gun, found the bullet was deflected and lying near the skin. He took his knife and cut it out. The old warrior sprang to his feet and cried, "Boys, I can still fight the Indians."

In 1793 the Kickapoo Indians stole horses from the American Bottom near Eagle Cliffs. \* (See footnote) William Whiteside, Captain Samuel Judy, and John and Sam Whiteside, Wm. L. Whiteside, John Porter and John Dempsey took after them. The Indians were camped near Belleville near Shoal Creek. The Whiteside party found three of the horses grazing on the prairie, took the horses and divided forces of four men each. They attacked at the same time "whooping and hollering" from opposite sides. Thinking a large number were attacking them, old Chief Pecon surrendered. The Whitesides took the horses, and on a non-stop flight made off for Whiteside Station. Forty Indian warriors pursued them, but they reached the fort and safety.

In 1811, when Indians again began depredations, Whiteside was elected Colonel of the St. Clair County militia and held that office for many years. He also served in the Mexican War. After peace reigned he turned his attention to his farm at the station and planted the

first apple orchard in these parts. In 1832 he was appointed agent to receive from the state authorities all sums of money derived from the sale of saline lands in Gallatin County. The amount was \$282 62 1/2. He was state treasurer from 1837 to 1841. History says he and his wife are buried at Whiteside Station.

## FORT PIGGOTT

Another fort stands out in the history of early Columbia. This is Fort Piggott, or it was sometimes known as, Fort Big Run. James Piggott erected this fort in 1783 at the foot of the bluff, one and one half miles west of Columbia. The fort was located on what was known as Carr Creek, which the French called "Grand Risseau" (literal translation large gully). The creek was named for Lenard Carr, an early settler. Fort Piggott was located on the old Charles Schneider place, now the residence of Elmer Schlemmer, et al, in survey 554 Claim 487 T 1 S R 10 W, Monroe County, Illinois, adjacent to present Western City limits of Columbia. Whiteside Station or Fort Whiteside is located on the Robert J. Friedrich place and east of the Shoemaker School (now occupied by Joe Maul and wife) in survey 412 Claim 520 T 1 S R 10 West, Monroe County, Illinois, formerly owned by Francis Joseph Friedrich, now by Robert J. Friedrich. These locations were in the American Papers in the Court House at Waterloo, Illinois and the information supplied by Robert Gardner, County Surveyor and Arthur H. Rueck, Circuit Clerk.

James Piggott the builder of the fort was a soldier. He fought with Washington in the Battle of the Brandywine and with Gates at Saratoga. As Indian depredations increased the Fort became a haven for the settlers. When word went out to summon the settlers for safety's sake to the fort it was said that even the children realized the danger and would go silently to the fort without a word of caution from their elders. Indian massacres were accelerated and during 1789 and 1790 no one was safe. Indeed, one-tenth of the population was massacred by the Indians.

The trouble began early in 1788, for on March 28 of that year, William Biggs, a Columbian and John Vallis of Bellefontaine (now a part of Waterloo) set out for Cahokia to sell some beaver fur. Within six miles of Ft. Piggott they heard the report of two guns. Soon afterward sixteen Indians made their appearance, guns in firing position. Biggs and Vallis whipped up their horses but Biggs' horse was killed. Four shots pierced his overcoat but he was uninjured. With his furs and saddle he attempted to run away, but he was caught by the Indians. Vallis, though shot, clung to his horse and made it to Ft. Piggott. As he reached there a swivel gun was fired to summon the neighborhood to the Fort. When the Indians heard this they ran with Biggs for six miles for they had no horses. Forty miles they covered that day says history. The Kickapoos took Biggs to their village on the Wabash. He later escaped and reached Kaskaskia via the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers. From there he went to Bellefontaine.

Another time Fort Piggott provided safety for the settlers attacked by the Indians. In 1789 six Indians attacked three boys. One of the boys, David Waddle, a distant relative of Miss Josephine Burroughs of Columbia, was "injured in three places" and then scalped. The two other boys rushed him to the fort and his life was saved.

One of the outstanding events in Columbia's early history occurred in 1790 when Captain Piggott with four five inhabitants of his fort, petitioned to name the

Big Run. They also asked Territorial Governor St. Clair for grants of land for the settlers. They asked for 400 acres of land for every settler (head rights it was called) and for 100 acres of land for every militiaman enrolled that year, 1790.

When the British commandants were in power they exercised the power of making land grants subject to the approval of the King of England. British Colonel Wilkens granted 30,000 acres of land between Kaskaskia and Prairie du Rocher to John Edgar, a British subject, and John Murray St. Clair, the territorial governor's son. The French had previously given this land to others, but the records were conveniently lost by the British. In spite of this fiasco the U. S. government confirmed the grants, despite protests.

The name of John Edgar appears on a number of early Columbia land sales, saying that the property was a grant from the government in 1813. In fact, he really did a land office business, for his transactions fill 172 consecutive pages in land records of Randolph county. He was the largest landowner in the territory for he paid taxes on 130,400 acres. Robert Morrison paid on 34,000 and William Morrison on 24,000. These Morrisons were relatives of Carlisle B. Morrison of Waterloo, all early Illinois settlers. When the Illinois country organized in 1795 these land grants called for many hundred thousand acres of land but the 1,000 individuals to whom these grants were made divested themselves of the land prior to the first assessment of taxable property.

Lands in cultivation were assessed at \$2.00 per acre; "improved" at \$1.50; wild lands at \$1.00. Forty acre head rights were sold at from \$30 to \$200; militia rights (100 acres) brought from \$6 to \$14. The so-called "improvement" rights were \$50 per acre.

#### SHADRACH BOND'S PRE-EMPTION LAW

Columbia precinct has another, though rather indirect claim to fame, in that Shadrach Bond, the first Governor of Illinois, spent much time in Columbia with his uncle, another Shadrach Bond who lived in Moredock precinct close to Columbia precinct.

Shadrach, the younger, served as the first delegate from Illinois to sit in Congress. He was elected in 1812. During his term of office he secured the enactment of the first pre-emption law ever put upon the statute books in the United States. This law will be better understood if we recall the practices of frontier life.

It often happened that the surveyed land was not placed on the market for a number of years. The settler usually selected his land and made improvements with the expectation that he would buy the land when it came upon the market. Unprincipled men would watch and often step ahead of the settler at the land office and buy the improved land at government prices. This often resulted in violence and bloodshed. Bond's pre-emption law recognized the settler's equity in the improvements and prevented any one else from buying the land without the consent of the one who had improved it.

This Act of 1813 brought the public land into the market. Immigrants poured in and the land rush was on. Many Columbia titles and abstracts reflect this Act, and also the huge parcels of land belonging to John Edgar of Kaskaskia.

#### EARLY SETTLERS

A number of improvement claims lie scattered over Columbia precinct indicating permanent settlements prior to 1788. Claim 228 was improved by Jacob Stillman; Claim 2058 by Thomas Winn; 501 Joseph Lacoutour; 408 Robert Watt; 505 Francis Bellow; 487 James Piggott; 520 Whiteside Station. These claims, with the exception of the

Whiteside claim, lie in the northern part of Columbia precinct and embrace the Mississippi Bluffs throughout their point of extent. Southeast of these and less than a half mile south of Fountain creek, lies Claim 607, improved by Jacob Groat; south of Claim 571 Leonard Harness; Claim 543, Charles Gill. The Whiteside claim is in the eastern part southeast of Columbia.

#### SETTLERS PRIOR TO 1820

Among settlers best known to Columbia historians were the three Wilson brothers: Otho, Edward and William. The Wilsons were originally from Maryland. They moved to Kentucky and in 1800 came to Columbia. Otho married Elizabeth Biggs and settled a mile and a half northwest of Columbia. They farmed. Their children were Zeborah, Nancy, Edward, William and Sarah. Otho served in the War of 1812 and the Black Hawk War. Edward married Catherine Ryan and moved to St. Clair county. William married Matilda Wallace, and settled on Section 9, three-fourths of a mile northwest of Columbia. They were farmers. His children were John H., Elizabeth, Sarah, Mary, Deborah, Louis M. and George. William Biggs was another prominent settler, here before the advent of the Wilsons. He kept a tavern a half mile north of Columbia on the old Kaskaskia Trail, "near a spring of lasting water." This was one of the first stopping places of the stage coach between St. Louis and Kaskaskia and existed as early as 1800. George Ramsey came from Virginia in 1803. In 1805 he married Nancy Chance and settled near Fish Lake in the Bottom. In 1816 he bought land one and a half miles north of Columbia from Joseph Ogle. Benjamin Ogle owned the adjoining land. The Ogles were from Virginia and were very old settlers. James Bradshaw from Kentucky settled on the southeast quarter of section 35 in 1814. His children were Mabel, Mary, John and Sylvester. Jacob Neff, one of the few German immigrants in this group came in 1814 and settled in section 25 Township 1 South Range 11 West. He was a plain, industrious farmer and had a family of four daughters and two sons, who moved to Missouri. Mr. Neff stayed on the farm here until his death at an advanced age. Thomas Porter a "sporting man" and lover of horse racing, settled at Fish Lake in 1814 in Columbia Precinct. Joseph Beard was a prominent and influential business man and farmer. He settled in Section 24, Township 1 south Range 10 west in 1817 and kept ten or twelve slaves. Thomas Nelson in 1817 settled in the northwest quarter of Section 26. He built a cabin and lived there until 1830. He had six sons, all six feet tall. Richard Acklas settled at Fish Lake in 1817. Samuel Hill of Virginia an influential man, large land owner with a number of slaves settled on Section 4 in 1818. Leonard Carr, a German, lived near the creek that now bears his name. John Divers of Baltimore, Maryland came and settled one mile west of Columbia. He was a successful and wealthy farmer, and was also in the milling business. He died in 1849. His son, George Divers, served as mayor of Columbia for several terms. William Morgan, his wife and child came from Kentucky in 1849. James Shepherd came in 1826 and settled in Section 25. John Ryan married Susan Gall and settled in Section 25. Dr. Hammond Shoemaker came from New Orleans in 1833 and settled in Section 25. He was educated as a physician in Philadelphia. Rev. Nolan, father of Dr. James Nolan, a prominent and influential citizen of Columbia, was among the first preachers.

Palmier cemetery, the oldest burial place in the precinct, was laid out on the Ogle estate about 1783. Many Revolutionary, War of 1812 and Mexican War heroes were buried there.

Other settlers prior to 1820, not previously mentioned were: William Phelps, George Lunceford, Robert Kidd, Daniel McCann, Stephen Ferry, Nicholas Smith, Henry O'Hara, Absolam Bradshaw, Nancy Payne, nee Wilson, Jacob Clark, Jacob Judy, John Johnson, Adelaide Perry, David Yates, P. Rockblave, James Whitley, William Trumbull, David Waddle, Benjamin Rodgers, David and Ed Cox, John Prim, John Violent, constable of Eagle precinct, James Nowlin, John Tolin.

Settlers after 1820, but not including the German settlers: James Hudson, Robert Coleman (first Grist mill, ox-power 1828), John E. Christy, Dr. William Goforth (old pills he was called), Samuel McRoberts, Nighton B. Wall, Joshua Parker (first blacksmith), J. B. Smith and Stewart (first merchants in an old building near Coleman's grist mill, 1828), Lafayette Warnock, John McKee, Thomas Finley, Stephen Gardner, John Scott Morgan, Henry Waderman, John Ralls, Thomas Morgan.

### THE COMING OF THE GERMANS

The Germans came to Columbia about 1833-35. Many of them came by boat from New Orleans to St. Louis and eventually to Columbia. Some came overland in covered wagons from the east coast, stopped here and looked for land. When the Germans arrived, large parcels of land were in the hands of the English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh settlers, who came from Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland and Kentucky with George Rogers Clark. A few Germans had found their way previously to this territory, and their glowing accounts of the wonderful country they had discovered stimulated the relatives and friends of the first settlers to follow to the new country.

From 1835 to 1840 a flood of Germans came to Columbia and surrounding territory. Some of these were Jacob and Christian Beck, the Beckers, John Bohlman, Jacob Bersche, J. P. Ebel, Jacob Rau, Thomas Koenigsmark, Joseph Platz, Valentine Janson, the Petris, Mosbachers, Weckers, Friedrichs, Weibachers, Huchs, John Rey, John Miller, Paul Mueller, Peter and Jacob Schlemmer, John Valentine, Daniel Klein, Johan Heinrich Tocznes.

Land was cheap, the climate right to grow good crops, and those who had been politically and religiously oppressed, could not wait to get to this new country where liberty was theirs to breathe.

By their industry and thrift and methodical work, they changed the character of Columbia from a pioneer settlement to the Columbia today. The English, Irish and Scotch settlers hired the Germans to farm their large estates. Since the pioneers had acres and acres of land, but not too much money, they paid the German farmers with land, until, ultimately most of the land belonged to the Germans.

### OLD HOUSES

The Germans were good farmers and good business men. They built substantial homes of brick, modeled after the homes they knew in the old country. They were good, law-abiding citizens. Because they had been oppressed in the old country they wanted everyone to be free, so practically all opposed slavery and were more than willing to fight to oppose slavery. Practically every able-bodied man in Monroe county was in uniform during the Civil War. Women and children worked in the fields to take their men's places while they were away at war.

The combination of the two types of settlers in Columbia produced an interesting citizenry. The Wilson family of Scotch-Irish descent, the McKee family (originally spelled MacKie) from the Inverness region of the Scotch Highlands, the Warnock family descended from one of the first families of Edinburgh, who migrated to South

Carolina. They were wealthy planters there. The Ramack came from Virginia, the Divers from Maryland, the McGans from Kentucky, the Biggs from England, the Miles from Wales, the Dutch family, the Shooks and Bonds were from influential English families.

These pioneers were people of intelligence and breeding. Their homes were pretentious. They lived a life of comparative ease, by the standards of the times. The happy-go-lucky, volatile, hot-tempered, courageous Irish; the canny Scot; the brooding Welsh; and the well-disciplined English mitigated and lightened the more phlegmatic dispositions of the Germans. The Germans believed that work was of utmost importance, and that play came only after work was done. Mingling with the pioneer citizens we see some of the German people patterning their lives somewhat after the Southern planter who lived next door. The planters took on some of the characteristics of the thrifty, hardworking Germans.

Clashes of the two personalities were in plenty-bloody ones, but the years have mellowed both and they are blended into a harmonious whole, which is as it should be, in this melting pot which is America.

Between the 1840's and the 1860's the people who came to Columbia, both in town and in the Bottom, are the ancestors of those who live here. To name a few of them: Henckler, Gilmore, Litzenberger, Kuehner, Pfeffer, Payne, Huth, Schmidt, Brand, Riebeling, Wenkel, Steppig, Stumpf, Gummersheimer, Breidecker, Ritter, Weinel, Vogt, Friedrich, Niemeier, Kunz, Lotz, Schneider, Ferkel, Weisenborn, Bergmann, Grosse, Stoll, Rueck, Rohm, Meyer, Schrader, Angerer, Kemp, Fischer, Gundlach, Reis, Rauch, Weibacher, Beckmann, Ludwig, Landgraf, Eckert, Metter, Reichert, Kremmel, Van Luik, Volkert, Schuchardt, Richert, Steffenauer, Roessler, Kupferschmidt, Arnin, Bauman, Weisenstein, Durrer, Wink, Diehl, Wierschem, Van Gueest, Tunze, Eschmann, Wilde, Van Closter, Schueler, Fiege, Dreher, Mitweide, Miller, Brucker, Taake, Grob, Haberalah, Giffhorn, Harmacek, Stenler, Heise, Carle, Gruening, Faust, Schorb, Blittersdorf, Schroeder, Doerr, Theobald, Lepp, Habermehl, Brellinger, Oexner, Daab, Harres, Phelps, Hick, Dollar, Heiligstedt, Reichenbach, Schoening, Hermann, Dotzauer, Juengling, Schiemer, Kraus, Schaefer, Knoch, Mueller, Schuler, Mundinger, Reh, Kossina, Menner, Petri, Scheuermann, Dankenbring, Sander, Lehr, Roser, Oertter, Briegel, Rapp.

### THE FIRST YEARS OF THE COLUMBIA SETTLERS

The first years of Columbia settlers were busy ones. They broke the sod for crops, cleared the ground for cabins, built cabins, fought Indians. With all this drudgery which preceded the beginnings of civilization they had little time for anything but mere survival. There were log cabins in Columbia as early as 1815. In 1820 the original town of Columbia was laid out on the land of Louis Nolan. The survey and plat was made by a Whiteside, but it was never recorded. Town boundaries were designated and the municipality was first incorporated as a "Town" by a special Act of the Thirty-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, approved on the 14th day of February A. D. 1859, by Governor William H. Bissell.

The first election of said Town of Columbia was held at the house of Ernst Mund, in 1859, at which "all white free male inhabitants over the age of 21 years" were entitled to vote. Only a bona fide freeholder who had paid a state and county tax could hold the office of Trustee.



THE A. F. WEINEL HOME IN COLUMBIA



THE HENRY PAYNE HOME

Oldest Log Cabin still in use in Columbia Precinct



HOME OWNED BY GEORGE DIVERS



THE JAMES WARNOCK HOUSE



The first Officers for the Town of Columbia, elected in 1859, were: President, Stewart McKee; Trustees, John Gundlach, John Jost, John Ferkel; Clerk, Armin Bornemann; Treasurer, John Ferkel; Constable, Henry Scheuermann; Street Commissioner, Jacob Beck.

Minutes of the first meeting, March 10, 1859 10 A. M. Stewart McKee, Lafayette Warnock, John Gundlach, John Ferkel and John Jost, legally elected and duly qualified and sworn as Trustees of the Town of Columbia, met on the tenth day of March, 1859 at 10 o'clock A. M. and proceeded to organize as a body incorporate under the style and name of the President and Board of Trustees of the Town of Columbia. At the motion of John Gundlach, Stewart McKee was elected President. At the motion of John Gundlach, Armin Bornemann was appointed by the Board as clerk and ordered the same to be sworn. At the motion of Lafayette Warnock, John Ferkel was appointed Treasurer of the Town. The motion of Lafayette Warnock to appoint a street commissioner was postponed till the next meeting. At a motion of Lafayette Warnock, the president was authorized to appoint a committee of three for the purpose of making by-laws. The President appointed Lafayette Warnock, John Gundlach and John Jost. They read the Town Charter which was signed by Wm. R. Morrison speaker of the House of Representatives, John Wood, Speaker of the Senate, and was approved by Governor William H. Bissell, and registered with the Secretary of State, O. M. Hatsch.

Warnock moved the President appoint a committee for superintending the work of the surveyor by surveying the limits of the Town. The President appointed John Gundlach and John Ferkel. It was decided to charge a license for an auctioneer, "pedlar," a beer house, a grocery, a nine or ten pin alley or shuffle board, a theatre or other exhibition such as a circus or caravan, provided that for musicales or concerts, or exhibitions of painting and statuary, given or made by citizens of this town and Thespian performances for benevolent purposes no license be required. However, anyone playing a hand organ or other musical instruments about the streets to entertain must have a license. All persons keeping a grocery or house of entertainment wherein spirituous, vinous or mixed liquors or any fluid containing alcohol are sold in less quantity than one gallon shall be required to have a license.

Hugo Ropiquet was appointed surveyor, and John Jost was appointed to carry the flag for the surveyor. At the motion of Lafayette Warnock the Board adjourned until the next regular meeting at the office of A. Bornemann.

At the meeting held March 26, 1859 it was decided that every able-bodied man between the ages of 21 and 50 be required to labor on streets and alleys four days every year, with reasonable diligence, for ten hours a day or get no credit, or he could pay 75c a day in lieu of his labor. He worked under the supervision of the street inspector. Next they decided to rent a town hall from a Mr. Ebel for \$3.10 a month, and also to get bids to macadamize Main street.

The first licenses issued were as follows:  
John Ferkel for keeping a grocery for 6 months  
Henry Siemens for keeping a grocery for 6 months  
Ernst Grosse for keeping a grocery for 6 months  
Wm. Henze and Stoehr beer house  
L. Kaffenberger beer house  
Wilson and Weinle Store 1 1 year  
Ewald and Gardner Store 1 1 year  
Reid and Cairns Store 1 1 year

Henze and Stoehr Store 1 1 year  
Christian Breidecker Store 1 1 year  
Henry Siemens Ten pin alley  
Ernst Mund Ten pin alley  
Billiards and pitchinhole also licensed.

This unusual Ordinance was passed: Every male person of the age of 21 and upward who shall neglect or refuse to join in the posse of the constable or any other officer by neglect or refusing to aid and assist arresting persons against whom they may have issued any civil or criminal process or who may have escaped after having been arrested shall be fined not exceeding \$25.

The Trustees had authority to make pavements or sidewalks—"provided always, that the lot in front of any sidewalk should be taxed to at least one-half the expenses of said sidewalk", and the town could sell any property subject to redemption when the tax levied upon it was not paid. The charter further provided that the "County court of Monroe County shall not be authorized to levy a license on the aforesaid houses of public entertainment, taverns, beer houses, groceries and stores within the limits of said Town of Columbia.—Provided said town shall support and maintain her own paupers".

The Board ordered a desk to be made by Fred Litzberger in which to keep records. It was made of solid walnut and is now in the City Library as beautiful as it was when made. The next order of business was to provide ways and means for road building. Streets there were none worthy of the name, and the condition of the roads can be described by a story they used to tell. It may not be quite true, but reflects their feeling about streets and roads.

A man on his way to St. Louis saw in the Bottom a hat on top of the ground. The man got off his horse to pick up the hat, and found a man under it. The man under the hat said "I am safe, but under me is a wagon and four horses mired in the mud, and I think they are in a bad fix."

Things must have jogged along pretty comfortably for nothing of great import was recorded from the minutes of the town board from which this part of the history is taken until on July 1, 1861 a bill of Charles Henckler was allowed for revision of the town charter which was passed on Feb. 19, 1859. Some minor provisions were corrected. On July of 1861 the board appointed a committee to "make a circulation of a building" 16x20 feet two stories high to be made of "wrock" and brick, lower story feet over the ground to be 1½ feet thick; upper story brick, 9 inches thick. This was apparently a plan for town hall, but no further mention of it was made until the board in 1875 met to consider the building of a calabooze or a "calabooze" and market house. Fred Koch estimated the cost of the "calabooze" at \$1150 and calabooze and market house at \$2237.50. They decided to build a calabooze and town hall and let the bid to Berg and Fischer for \$1075, building to be of stone and to be finished November 1, 1877.

February 6, 1865, John Gundlach was appointed to go to Springfield on account of having amended the town charter. He was allowed \$15 for his expenses.

At the last meeting in 1866 the only thing of importance was that Christian Niemder opposed letting dogs loose in Columbia. He lost his point and pups had the freedom of the town.

On October 7, 1867, August F. Weinle, then city surveyor, was paid \$400 for surveying and platting town, \$200 in cash.

From 1863 to 1876 the proceedings had largely to do with the building of streets, roads and bridges.

Strangely enough there was no mention of any kind of the Civil War either in Board proceedings or other data. One mention, only, there was. A committee called on the widows of Civil War veterans to see if they were in need of aid. They were not and that seemed to close the matter.

At the April 1866 meeting the Board asked for bids to macadamize Main street a distance of a quarter of a mile, road to be 16 feet wide, 13 inches deep in center and 7 inches at the sides.

In 1875 when A. F. Weinel was president, a mention was made of paupers. Columbia cared for its own paupers. Also in 1875 P. W. Miller and Henry Riebeling were commissioned to build a gun carriage for a cannon. This cannon and gun carriage figured prominently in Columbia Fourth of July celebrations.

In November 1876 they decided to build a pavement from Main street to the school house, (this was the year the new school was built). Sidewalks built at that time were plank walks.

In July of 1877 there was threatened litigation over the failure of the Cairo and St. Louis Railway Company to build a depot here as required by law. The town threatened to sue but arbitrated the matter with the result the railroad paid half and the city half. Fred Koch got the contract—\$460 the cost.

On February 12, 1879 Columbia had its first street lighting project. The new coal oil lights were lit for the first time by the Town Marshal, Henry Riebeling. They were lit at dark and extinguished at dawn, such duties performed by the Town Marshal. These lights were in square lantern effect, such as are now used to light patios and gardens.

#### CENSUS IN 1879

The year 1879 and the pace begins to quicken, foretelling more improvements for the little community. On October 4, 1875 a census disclosed:

Males under 6 years .....	110
Females under 6 years .....	124
Males between 6 and 21 .....	254
Females between 6 and 21 .....	246
Males 21 to 50 .....	238
Females 21 to 50 .....	225
Males over 50 .....	101
Females over 50 .....	95
Total .....	1393
Total Males 694    Total Females 699	

An order of business in 1879 made many happy. There would be no further road labor for males, even though they filled and graded and macadamized the road to the Catholic cemetery that year.

In 1881 the City Jads built a fence around the city park and commissioned Henry Reichenbach to buy one dozen chairs for the town hall. Half of these chairs, captain's chairs of oak, are still in the City Hall. The marshal was also permitted to wear a star as a symbol of his office, and Chris Niemeier gave a police whistle to said marshal, "which was thankfully received." The marshal's salary was \$15 a month plus \$10 for caring for street lighting.

In 1882 Peter Friedrich and Sons built a switch to the St. Louis and Cairo Railroad 150 yards long, 8 feet wide on North Second, and made a culvert at Peter Small's. In 1885 Henry Huch the miller, wanted to build one along Whiteside street to the railroad but his request was denied.

In 1884 practically the only thing of note was, that if a citizen could not pay his fine, he could be chucked in the calaboose—notice, not "calabooze".

In 1866 the town bought a Howe 10 ton triple beam scale for \$170 and appointed a weighmaster, J. A. Breidecker, he to get 50% of the proceeds. Prices for weighing were: two-horse wagon 15c; for gross and tare live stock 10c a head and 5c thereafter.

In 1877 and thereafter saw a trend toward providing employment for citizens. At John Pfeffer's request the city decided to dig for coal. At an election 207 were for digging for coal and 5 against. Peter Reis, Charles Breidecker and L. E. Seyfarth asked for an appropriation, which was granted. The state geologist was contacted to locate a site. By October they decided to go to at least 550 feet in an attempt to locate a vein. The venture apparently died a-borning, but some coal was dug, for Turner records showed they purchased coal from the company.

A town ordinance in 1888 provided that a passenger train could go no faster through the corporate limits of Columbia than 15 miles an hour and a freight train but 5 miles an hour; and if a person could not pay a fine, the city ordered the culprit retained with ball and chain if necessary at faithful labor upon the streets, alleys and public grounds for at least eight hours per day until the fine was paid off, allowing 50c for each day's work, board free, but at night the culprit was popped in the calaboose. There were rock piles all over town for the unfortunate sinner to work at.

In 1888 an attempt was made to change Columbia from a town to a village. The citizens voted the change down by a vote of 68 for and 94 against.

In this year, 1888, John B. Schmidt, George Divers, A. B. Vogt, J. R. Walker and William Gundlach contacted St. Louis manufacturers to locate in Columbia, with little success for there is no mention of anyone coming to Columbia for that purpose. Later there was a mass meeting at the Turner Hall to try to raise \$15,000 for a factory, but this too was unsuccessful.

In 1890 the Board allowed Henry Huch to build a switch to the mill for which he deeded to the town that part of North Second street, beginning at Mr. Rose's corner and extending to the corner of Daniel Klein's property; and also the street beginning at the Masonic Hall on Main street to North Second street.

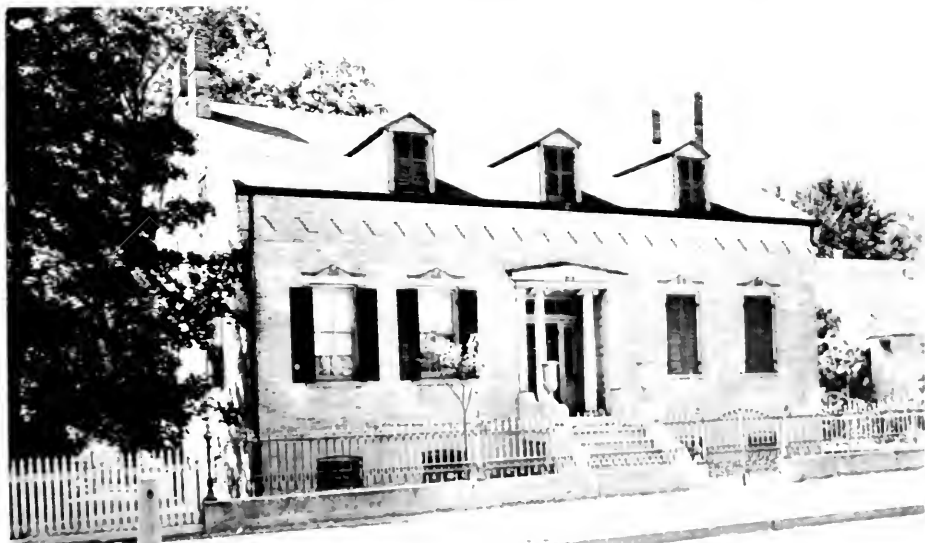
In 1891 the town bought two sets of balls and chains and one set of handcuffs for which they paid \$17.00 (The balls and chains have not been used lately, but they are still at the City Hall).

July 1891 the town gave the G. A. R. Post 8 pounds of gun powder and the use of the cannon for the Fourth of July celebration. The Turners invited the Town Board to participate in their Fourth of July celebration. The Town Board accepted and hired a rig from A. F. Weinel so they could ride in the parade. This year the town park was opened to the public, the town to build twelve new benches. The park was where part of the City Hall now stands.

In 1891 the town was back to road building, for they hired Urmev and Morgan to assist in staking out grades and repairing Cherry street. They were to fill and raise the bridge on Cherry street below Turner Hall. Dr. William Rose sold the ground for the fill for \$100.00.



The Joshua Wilson House now 140 years old, owned and occupied by Miss Josephine Burroughs.



The John and Philip Peter Gundlach house built in 1836-1837 as a two family residence. Purchased by Ernst Grosse and lately by Paul Heisler by whom it is now occupied.

These two houses represent two cultures—the English manor house and the sophisticated German residence.

## IMPROVEMENTS

Now more stirring of interest in improvements is evident. A committee was sent to Waterloo to inspect their light plant. The committee consisted of J. A. Breidecker, H. C. Schneider and Henry J. Kunz, Sr. In December the town board wrote to a Mr. Murdock of St. Louis requesting information about incandescent lighting.

There was a robbery at the Catholic Church early in December of 1891. Thieves entered the church and stole sacred vessels from the altar. At the December meeting of the town board a reward of \$200 was offered "for the capture and conviction of any burglar, dead or alive, of burglary committed within the corporate limits of Columbia." They moved to assist trustees of the Catholic church to hire a detective (paying half the cost) to assist in the capture of the burglar. Two night watchmen were hired at \$1.00 a night, George Bauer and Conrad Steffenauer, who were to be on duty from 9 p. m. to 6 a. m. The Masonic Hall was the dividing line of their beat. The burglar was never caught but the missing articles were found many years later, having been buried under a tree near town.

In August of 1891 the Bell Telephone Co. sought a franchise to operate a telephone business in Columbia. There is no record of any action on the matter. But in 1895 the town bought two telephones, one for the depot and one for the power house. In 1896 Dr. M. G. Nixon and Adolph Lambrecht asked permission for the Missouri Telephone Mfg. Co. of St. Louis to run a telephone cable through the streets of Columbia, subject to many conditions. Permission was granted.

On December 27, 1891 they passed an ordinance to create a light plant, contracting with Murdock for the construction of same. The name was to be the Columbia Electric Light and Power Company. The matter hung in fire until June of 1892 when the Board informed Murdock that if the light plant was not in operation by July 1, 1892, the contract would be null and void. In December the contract was voided.

Still seeking to modernize Columbia, on July 20, 1892 at a special meeting with President Henry J. Kunz, Sr., presiding, Joseph M. Arnin and Charles Pepperni were commissioned to go to St. Louis to find out how to organize and finance an electric light plant. Another special meeting was called for September 5. It was proposed that the town of Columbia purchase electrical energy from a company to be known as the Eagle Electric Company. A building was to be erected, machinery purchased and the town was to have 90 street lights of 32 candle power. The building erected was our old power house. Current was to be purchased from sunset to sunrise, the franchise to run for ten years, cost \$1.50 a lamp. This was approved October 3, 1892. Columbia purchased the stock. Henry Huch was president of the new company which operated until June of 1903 when the town offered to buy out the company for \$2000. However, appraisers were appointed, Arthur Huey, George W. Ziebold and F. W. Baltz. They appraised the holdings at \$2750 and the offer was promptly accepted. A special election confirmed the judgment of the board to purchase the plant which was then operated by the town, until it was sold to the Illinois Power and Light Co. in 1923.

From 1895 to 1901 there was little of interest to record except the struggles of the trustees to get a satisfactory light plant.

October of 1901 saw a smallpox and diphtheria epidemic, for a board of health was appointed to guard against smallpox and other contagious diseases. E. F. Schoening, Dr. Wm. Rose and Dr. M. G. Nixon were the committee appointed. It must have raged until spring for there were bills for George Wilson and Conrad Steffenauer for guarding diphtheria cases and Mr. Wilson for attending smallpox cases. Mrs. Charles Schneider was paid for disinfecting "smallpox houses."

## COLUMBIA BECOMES A VILLAGE

On September 7, 1903 a petition signed by 40 legal voters was presented to the board to submit the question to organize as a village under the general law. The election was held and on October 5, 1903 by a vote of For 53 Against 16, spoiled ballots 7. By this vote Columbia became a village.

The pace of Columbia's growth begins to accelerate. In 1904 Henry N. Kunz, son of former mayor Henry J. Kunz, Sr., was elected president of the board to succeed the vacancy caused by the resignation of James Warnock.

The new presiding officer was young and full of energy. He was a methodical business man and a farm land owner. One of his first official acts was to order the village attorney, A. C. Bollinger, to prepare one hundred copies of the revised ordinances of the village. It was apparent his administration would be a business administration. And well it might be, for there was a great need for improvements. Many of these were in a formative state. In previous administrations there was a quest to find a source of water that Columbia might have a municipal water plant of some sort. In 1901 legislation was passed in the village board to examine springs and make surveys from springs to town and make estimates of costs of waterworks. The town passed an ordinance allowing the Columbia Star Milling Company, owned by E. F. Schoening to test the town well at their own expense and if sufficient water was found to reimburse the Mill for all expenses and permit them to use water for \$1.00 per year, but with the town to take over the well. Louis Bendit asked to clean out and test the town well and was authorized to do so, but nothing came of it. The water problem, it seemed, could not be solved, so the new mayor turned his attention to other problems he felt he could solve.

Columbia, under President Kunz, showed increasing evidence of the changing times. He presented the 1904 appropriation ordinance for \$5620 for streets and alleys; \$1300 for lights; \$2600 for contingent fund and \$1300 for salaries.

He appointed Albert Lepp superintendent of the light plant, with Henry Friedrich engineer; Dan Eckert fireman. Charles Morgan succeeded Friedrich as the engineer. Many improvements were made then, including adding of machinery, and supplying electrical energy three days a week.

In August of 1904, the city bought a strip of ground 35 feet wide and 77 feet easterly, to be used for street purposes to the new Mobile and Ohio station. Previously it had been located at Rick street near the Briegel residence and then across the tracks from its present location. There was much passenger traffic then and seeing the trains come in and depart, especially on Sunday, was a favorite Columbia recreation, for many from St. Louis came to spend their Sundays here.



PHILIP SCHMIDT, BREWERY OWNER, RESIDENCE



NICOLAUS WILDE HOME



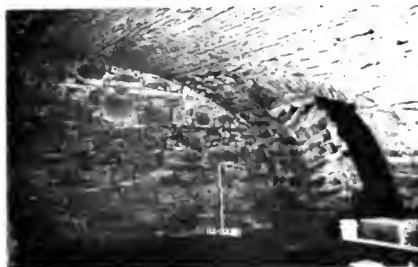
JOE SCHULER RESIDENCE



CHAS. SCHNEIDER, SR. RESIDENCE



OTTO GASSER RESIDENCE



PHILIP SCHMIDT BEER CELLAR



PHILIP SCHNEIDER RESIDENCE



PHILIP SCHMIDT    NICOLAUS WILDE    JOE SCHULER

The above pictures were procured from the Library of Congress at Washington, D. C. and are fine examples of the architecture introduced to Columbia by German settlers.

## WORLD'S FAIR 1904

In September 1904 the city officials, businessmen and citizens of Columbia decided to go to the World's Fair at St. Louis in a body.

On September 22, 1904 every business house and all the schools in town and in the neighborhood were closed and given a holiday at the World's Fair.

Among the enthusiastic workers were Mayor H. N. Kunz, John A. Pfeffer, E. F. Schoening, J. M. Armin, O. M. Rendelman and Henry Reichenbach.

There was a special train of seven coaches, with streamers indicating that it was Columbia day. They had the Columbia Star Band to furnish the music. After their arrival at Union Station, the Shuttle Train had a special awaiting them to take them to the Fair Grounds. On their arrival, to the stirring music of the Columbia Star Band, they marched to the Illinois State Building. There an address of welcome was delivered by Commissioner C. J. Doyle and responded to by Honorable A. C. Bollinger and Mayor Henry N. Kunz. Then the crowd disbanded and spent the day seeing the sights.

From the St. Louis Republic under the head "Hail Columbia" in reference to Columbia Day we take the following:

"Were a medal struck to celebrate the city, town or hamlet, which relatively, should make the best showing in attendance at the World's Fair, the honor would belong to the village of Columbia, Illinois.

This village could not send 400,000 people to the Exposition in one day as St. Louis did, or 50,000 as Chicago will; but its record is glorious enough to make the bigger cities envious.

Columbia's record is so creditable to the Exposition and to St. Louis as well as to the people of Columbia, as to require special attention.

The village was represented one day at the Exposition by 1000 of its inhabitants, which means that only 300 remained at home, as the total population is 1300. This is a record which it would be almost impossible to beat. And it must be said that the honor for attendance belongs to Columbia."

A note of tragedy and sadness entered Columbia Day when John Novack fell off the train as it was returning to Columbia, in the tunnel, and was killed.

A newer form of transportation, the streetcar—appeared on the horizon. On October 1, 1906 by Ordinance No. 10, the East St. Louis, Columbia and Waterloo railway and its successors was granted permission to build, maintain and operate a street railway.

In January of 1907, following the submission of a petition by William Hills and Fred and Philip Gummer-sheimer, officers of the Farmers Fountain Telephone Company, said company was granted the right to operate on Columbia streets. The line finally began operation on August 7, 1912.

Employment was increasing in Columbia, the Columbia Quarry Company was operating two quarries and on a large scale; Dupo and Bixby had opened up as railroad centers for the Missouri-Pacific and allied lines. A newspaper had come in, The Columbia Star. Due to the encouragement given by President Kunz and stories in the metropolitan press, that Columbia, almost to a man, had attended the St. Louis World's Fair on Columbia Day George W. Smith located here and established The Columbia Star on May 7, 1906. He worked for many years in Chicago, and most of the large dailies in the country and then established a country newspaper in West Point, Iowa. Being originally from Waterloo from an old

German family, Columbia appealed to him. Editorially he supported every measure that was for the good of Columbia and was not averse to taking a very personal interest in any disputed matter. He was a fighting editor of the old school and was afraid of nothing. The Columbia Star was made the official newspaper of Columbia.

In March of 1907 a special meeting of the village board was held for the purpose of securing granitoid (or cement) sidewalks for Columbia. This was a great step forward, for the old plank walks had practically disintegrated. The plan was for the city to pay half of the cost and the property owner the other half.

Not much time was wasted, for Farley and Company of Homer, Illinois got the contract. Good sidewalks they were, too, for most of them are still being used and are still in good condition.

Other new things became a part of the Columbia picture on June 1, 1908 Emil Pfeffer established the first movie house in Columbia in the old Harmacek building now operated as a tavern by Harry Kuehner. An ordinance provided that "a bona fide resident of Columbia, by paying a fee of \$50 a year or \$30 for six months could operate a movie show, mutascope or magic lantern show. Art Penn also conducted an airdrome at the Gundlach place.

Old things were passing away in Columbia, for in 1908 the A. F. Weinel Company discontinued their livery stable, so long a part of old Columbia.

Then in February of 1907 came a crisis. The village announced that it would be unable to furnish light unless a larger dynamo be installed. This was met by the order that no one be allowed to burn electric lights all night and other essential cutbacks. In April of that year E. L. Rauch was appointed superintendent of the light plant, a position he occupied for eighteen years. He introduced an era of economy and good business methods that put the light plant on firm footing. By 1909 Columbia had full day current and on February 1, 1909 the tungsten system of street lighting was installed. The schedule of rates posted at that time is interesting.

- 1—4 lamps 16 candle power \$1.50 per mo.
- 5—8 lamps 16 candle power \$2.00 per mo.
- 9—12 lamps 16 candle power \$2.50 per mo.
- 12—20 lamps 16 candle power \$3.00 per mo.
- For all over 20, 10c each additional light per mo.
- Saloons and R. R. Depots:
- 1—5 lamps 16 candle power .85 per mo.
- 6—8 lamps 16 candle power .75 per mo.
- 9—12 lamps 16 candle power .65 per mo.

- Stores:
- 1—5 lamps 16 candle power .60 per mo.
- 6—8 lamps 16 candle power .55 per mo.
- 9—12 lamps 16 candle power .50c per mo.

On March 2, 1908 the village finished paying of the Eagle Electric Company and finances began to get better.

There were a number of "thou shalt nots" introduced at this time such as, "Children are not allowed to fly kites in any street, avenue or public place, not to have a hand or a toy sled on the street, nor to obstruct or use sidewalks, footways, or thoroughfares within the village, by playing marbles, spinning tops, rolling hoops, playing ball or toss ball of any description." Violator's parents were to be fined \$3 to \$15.

Another ordinance provided "Anyone propelling an auto or conveyance propelled by steam, gas or electric, more than six miles per hour through the village was subject to a fine of \$5 to \$200 or confined in the county jail for not more than six months."

October 1, 1906 a street railway ordinance was published in the Columbia Star authorizing the E. St. Louis and Columbia Ry. to operate on the streets of Columbia.

A curfew ordinance was passed keeping the children of Columbia off the streets after 7 p. m. in winter and 8 p. m. in summer. However, they continued to play "Lay Low, Sheep", the game of the time, until bedtime. Compared to today it was certainly a harmless game, although at that time many complained of the noise.

Much was accomplished in the Kunz administration, particularly in paying up old debts and laying the foundation for improvements Mayor Kunz knew were to come.

In 1909 H. N. Kunz, retiring president, presented the new president Fred G. Rapp with a bundle of work and trouble when he passed him and the new board correspondence regarding sewerage and waterworks for Columbia. Mr. Kunz knew that though the time was not yet ripe for them in his administration, Mr. Rapp would fall heir to them and he wished to help him all he could.

#### FRED G. RAPP NEW PRESIDENT VILLAGE BOARD

The new president of the board was a former school teacher. He was also a businessman conducting a large insurance agency, the Rapp Insurance Agency. He was a civic-minded man and loved Columbia with a rare fervor. He knew that Columbia had many civic problems to solve, but he was happy to give of his time and talents to make Columbia a better place to live in.

Since his work involved much traveling he sold Columbia to everyone who would listen to him. He coined the phrase "Columbia, the City of Gardens and Homes." It was largely, too, through him that Columbia became known as "Spotless Town."

He was a member of the board of the St. Louis Metropolitan Planning Commission, as was the former president, Henry N. Kunz and the present Mayor A. C. Metter.

Mr. Rapp's task as the presiding officer of an old, old, successively, village, town and city, was not an easy one. There were many problems, sometimes seemingly insurmountable, but through it all he never lost interest, never grew discouraged. Nearing the end of his final term of office he announced he would not run again. But to the end of his term he was as interested as the day he took over the reins of government of his beloved city. Herewith, step by step, we give the record of his regime as compiled from the proceedings of the city board.

Under the leadership of the new village board president in June of 1909 the search for water for a municipal plant in Columbia began in earnest. Sewerage, too, was on the agenda. In August of that year George Cadoogan Morgan was ordered to draw up plans for water and sewerage, and the search for water began.

Columbia had its first annual Clean-Up Day on October 14, 1910. This became an annual event and continued until Columbia employed a garbage man and a man to take away tin cans and other accumulated junk.

At the January 24, 1911 meeting the board talked of buying ground for a light plant. On February 11 the same year the board was authorized to purchase ground adjoining the power house, what was known as the Mill lot from the Columbia Star Mill, E. F. Schoening, president, for \$5500. They also bought a new boiler for the light plant.

In June 1911 the citizens of Columbia asked for oil on the streets. The village agreed to place the oil on the streets if the property owners would pay for the oil. This they were eager to do.

In October of that year the Council voted to modernize their bookkeeping methods by requiring numerous forms including burial permits. All death certificates were ordered filed with the State Board of Health in Springfield.

At that time too the East St. Louis, Columbia and Waterloo Railway asked for an extension of the time limit set for them to have their railway completed. There was some litigation about the right-of-way. This permission was granted with September 1, 1912 as the deadline. They beat the deadline for on August 7, 1912 the first street car came to Columbia, thus beginning another step forward for Columbia.

On January 22, 1912 the survey of Columbia of R. I. Arbogast was questioned and he resurveyed and replatted at a cost of \$400. The project was completed April 1, 1913.

At the March 12, 1912 meeting the board moved to abolish slot machines.

Now comes a real search for water for Columbia. In February of 1913 the village secured an option of two acres of ground from Adam Grieshamer with orders to proceed at once with drilling for water. On March 3, 1913 one acre of ground was leased from A. F. Weinell for the same purpose with John M. Burkhard to drill for water. On June 3, 1913 the Illinois State Water Survey reports that the water on the Grieshamer property was satisfactory.

On August 19, 1912 it was ordered that Columbia put up the new, recently purchased street signs. At the same meeting waterworks and sewerage reports were brought in and the water committee was granted permission to drill for water in and about Columbia.

On July 7, 1913 it was ordered that the village scales be moved to Schoening avenue.

On August 3, 1913 liability insurance was placed on all village employees.

On December 1, 1913 it was decided to try a metered rate for electricity. Previous to that time only the flat rate system was used.

In 1914 the village paid for oiling the streets, an innovation then, but custom since then.

On September 17, 1914 Columbia was invited to attend the St. Clair County Centennial at Belleville at which Columbia entered a float.

At the same meeting William Vogt presents the plat of Columbia Heights to the city. This is Columbia's first new subdivision, and thus marks another step forward.

On March 1915 the official village base or plane of referral is established. It is a fixed stone sill 100 feet away from South Second and Cherry Streets. At this meeting Henry N. Kunz was appointed public engineer and E. A. Weinell, Superintendent of streets.

#### BOND ISSUE FOR WATERWORKS & SEWERAGE DEFEATED

On April 3, 1915 a special election was ordered held for a bond issue of \$10,000 for waterworks and sewerage. It was held on June 12, 1915. Results: 248 yes, 363 no.

On October 4, 1914 the Columbia Star Mill asked for a switch to their property from the Mobile and Ohio R. R. Terminal granted.

At the November 6 meeting, 1914 E. L. Rauch, light plant superintendent, proposes day current for electric light users here. To augment this the board authorized light plant improvements.

At the October 1917 meeting Chas. Kern was appointed night marshal. He served until July 1941. He died following an automobile accident early in July of that year.



1909-1910 Mayor and City Council. Policemen George Baner and John B. Schmidt. Ferdinand Fiege, Albert Lepp, Louis Tunze, Gustav Tunze, Fred G. Rapp, Mayor; Chas. Lotz, William Haberlah, E. L. Rauch and Herman Meyer.

At the October 1917 meeting the Columbia Commercial Club presented a petition for free mail service.

At the January 7, 1918 meeting the Village bought a road oiler, and in that year also authorized the purchase of a road oiling wagon for \$400 from the Austin Road Machinery Co.

At the March 4, 1918 meeting it was reported that smallpox was rampant in Columbia.

At the May 6, 1918 session R. P. Briegel plats subdivision of lots 17, 18, 19 and 21 of McKee's addition and the board accepts it.

On March 11, 1919 W. A. Fuller, engineer for proposed improvements at the light plant, is asked to submit an estimate of what it would cost to secure current from the East St. Louis, Columbia and Waterloo Railway. At this meeting it was reported that a boiler costing \$1596.50 was needed for the light plant.

#### NEW LIGHT PLANT AUTHORIZED

On April 1, 1919 day and night current was authorized for Columbia electric light customers. In April of this year an election was held to authorize the building of a new light plant. The vote 192 for, 8 against.

At the September 1919 meeting businesses were again ordered licensed.

Trouble at the light plant in January 1920 when it was agreed the light plant could furnish current for only three days a week. In February of that year the influenza epidemic struck and quarantine regulations were set up.

On April 12, 1920 full day current was restored.

In September of 1921 R. W. English asked permission to use the city park for a playground. Permission was granted and he was appointed Superintendent of Playgrounds of the park which was officially named the Columbia Community Playground.

New subdivisions were platted from 1922 to 1924 as follows: Pauline Grieshamer, Clara Schmidt Addition, naming alleys; Lena Rose subdivision, Warnock subdivision; Fred Lepp, resurvey; and Charles Grosse subdivision.

At the September 22, 1922 meeting the paving of Main street was authorized.

In 1924 the village board authorized the selling of the light plant to the Illinois Power and Light Company, for \$30,000 and so ended the headaches of the village's municipal plant.

In the September meeting mention was made of the death of a city employee, William Rauch, special police officer, who was killed by the automobile of David L. Smith.

#### COLUMBIA BECOMES A CITY

Came a new era for Columbia for on March 22, 1927 there was an election held to change from village to city. The project carried, with a vote of 159 for and 50 against.

In 1927 the board again received a petition for free delivery of the mails.

Like Banquo's Ghost, the water problem would not down. To seek to solve it the City Board got prices for the installation of a water and sewerage system in Columbia. This report was presented in the October 27 meeting:

#### PRICES FOR WATER

East St. Louis \$292,325; River Bottom \$105,404; Hill's Spring \$99,809; Olympia Street \$73,623; Sanitary sewer system \$70,623.

Ground was bought from Adam Grieshamer for well and pump house; not quite an acre of land was purchased on which was an abandoned mine shaft. Here the water was located. It was installed during 1928 and 1929



and Columbians were quite happy over this, what they thought, was a solution of the problem. The sewer plant, an Imhoff Tank system, was located.

This too, was a step forward, but very shortly trouble began to develop there too, and what seemed to be the ideal solution to sewer problems became almost as troublesome as the water problem.

On March 10, 1930 the Turner Hall was bombed, and the Columbia American Legion Post volunteered to serve as a Vigilante Committee for the City.

To insure more water, on August 4, 1930 the city authorized the drilling of another well. Again, on January 5, 1931 Test well No. 2 was ordered on the Columbia Waterworks lot.

On January 31, 1931 the city water supply was inadequate due to a long drought and another well was dug which proved to have a flow of 72 hours of from 30 to 10 gallons per minute.

The water situation became bad again. Water and sewers cost so much on account of the long drought that anticipation warrants had to be issued. Water had to be hauled in. There could be no sprinkling or washing of autos. At this time Alderman A. C. Metter was appointed chairman of the water committee.

At the July 16, 1931 meeting the board recommended employing an engineer to make a preliminary survey of the now contemplated Dupo water supply line.

#### CITY DECIDES TO PURCHASE WATER FROM DUPO

At the August 13, 1931 meeting the board decided to accept plan calling for a 10-inch main. At the November 4, 1931 meeting the board decided to get water from Dupo and get a new pipe line, pump house and pumps to cost \$41,500.00.

But the City's finances were in bad condition, so bad they talked about reducing the street lights.

Then it was decided by the board to get a Reconstruction Finance Company loan for \$52,000.00. On December 12, 1932 it was partially approved and on February 21, 1933 the loan was finally approved.

#### A. C. METTER IS COLUMBIA'S NEW MAYOR

On April 18, 1933, Albert C. Metter was elected mayor for a two year term. A resolution was adopted authorizing an R. F. C. loan for \$52,500 at 5½ percent for construction of the Dupo-Columbia water line. Contract was awarded to the H. H. Hall Construction Company. The line was placed in operation in August of 1933 and the city well was abandoned. And the water problem was finally solved. March 20 of this year the new charter for the City of Columbia was received from the Illinois Secretary of State, pursuant to the election authorizing the changed status from a village to a city. The Turners deeded a quit claim deed to the city to extend Legion Avenue to Cherry Street so that it might become a part of the city park. In 1936 the park and playgrounds project was approved under the Federal W. P. A. program. The old power house pond was eliminated for construction of tennis courts as requested by the Great Oaks Tennis Club. Later new ornamental street lights were placed on the Municipal Park driveway.

In 1934 the city adopted, by virtue of a special election a one mill benefit tax to meet annual sewer assessments against the city for public benefit. An alcoholic liquor license was adopted and a new vehicle license law went into effect. This was setting the city in order financially so that an outfall sewer to the Mississippi might be constructed to eliminate the sewer disposal plant which had proved unsatisfactory. Application was

then filed with the Federal Emergency Administration of the P. W. A. for a grant to aid financing construction of an outfall sewer and pumping station to the Mississippi river. An arterial street system under the Illinois Motor Fuel Tax law was set up and approved. This gave the city a goodly sum for streets.

In 1935 an airplane marker sponsored by the Aeronautical Society was installed on Breidecker street under W. P. A. jurisdiction. In 1936 the Illinois Commerce Commission notified the city that the East St. Louis, Columbia and Waterloo railroad (the street car) had applied for authority to abandon and discontinue all public utility services. It was approved Jan. 30, 1936 in compliance with the U. S. Bankruptcy Act. At midnight July 31, 1936 the street car system was no more.

At the request of the City of Columbia, an unincorporated town on the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railroad in Kane county agreed to change its name to Crown, Illinois to eliminate the confusion caused by two places in Illinois being named Columbia. In this year the final chapter (or what they thought then) in the sewer story was written for a federal grant of 45% of the cost of the outfall sewer was approved, the city to assume 55% of the cost of the sewer. The right-of-way was procured to lay the sewer to the river. Previously, at a special election, the sale of \$28,500 in General Obligation bonds was approved to assist in financing the line, and erecting the pump house. The total cost of the project was \$64,454 with approximately \$28,500 by Federal grant. There was also a \$7,000 Sewer Revenue Bond issue. The contract was awarded on November 26, 1936 to Dobson Humphry of Minneapolis, Minn. The sewer was completed on October 8, 1939. An ordinance was passed then to reduce the interest rate from 6 to 4 per cent and authorize redemption prior to maturity on Water and Sewer District No. 1 bonds. In 1938 the interest rate on \$37,500 5½ per cent outstanding Water Revenue Bonds held by the R. F. C. were re-purchased at 4%.

Now in 1939 comes an era of building. Columbia Post 551 American Legion obtains permission to build a Legion Home in City Park. The Scouts become interested in a Hut of their own. The G. M. and O. railroad was granted permission to operate a bus line through here. In 1940 the city agreed to house the equipment of the Rural Fire Department and have city firemen man their trucks.

On August 6, 1938 Columbia officially celebrated the completion of five civic improvements with a torchlight procession. The celebration marked the completion of a new 4½ mile outfall sewer system from Columbia to the Mississippi river; a 10 inch cast iron water supply line from Dupo to Columbia, a distance of 6½ miles. The third project was the Municipal Park and Playgrounds and a site reserved for a Scout Hut. The fourth project was the concreting of the street car tracks of the discontinued E. St. Louis, Columbia and Waterloo Railway. The Illinois State Highway Department paved the tracks after their removal, giving Main street paving curb to curb. The fifth project was the erection of a Municipal Bandstand in the new park.

On March 26, 1940 by a special election the construction of a new municipal building to be financed by \$26,000 of Water Revenue Bonds was authorized. The contract was let to Bauer Brothers of Belleville. Total cost \$35,000, which included the furnishings of the building.

In 1941 water distribution lines were put in on Sugar Leaf and Lanesford Road and water lines to Sugar Leaf

and Lake View. This was the beginning of serving out-of-town customers. Since then many more lines and fire hydrants have been installed whenever possible. Main street's widening project was started with motor fuel tax funds.

Subdivisions appeared on the scene beginning in 1940 when Columbia Acres was accepted by the City. Scott Street and many others were opened or vacated to make a better street system. From 1940 on the following subdivisions have been accepted: Wilson's Third Addition, Brigel's, Fred Lepp's, William Vogt's, Columbia Heights, First Addition to Friedrich Place, Columbia Hills, Woodland Terrace, Faust's, Roessler's, Evergreen Terrace, Cascade Hills, Giffhorn's, Thiele's and Klein's. St. Paul Church of Christ was granted extension of Republican street from Bottom avenue to Church street, the city constructing the extension. Upon request of the Public School Board certain streets in Wilson's subdivision were closed in the school grounds as a safety measure for the children.

In 1942 the city's commercial water rates were instituted at the request of the Columbia American Distillery. In that year Civilian Defense was worked out in World War II. Blackouts were set up under Illinois War Council of Defense jurisdiction. The Millstadt bus line was granted permission to operate to the Jefferson Barracks Bridge. A 10 o'clock curfew was established. In 1943 the Columbia Fire Department was reorganized at a special meeting on June 21, 1943.

The widening of Main street project was approved, using Motor Fuel Tax Funds. In 1944 ordinances were passed authorizing the construction of a 50 foot diameter, 300,000 gallon concrete ground water storage reservoir and high service pump 500 g p m for \$14,500. In June the city purchased a tract of land from Mrs. Elizabeth Wecker as a site for the reservoir. An ordinance was passed authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds in the sum of \$7,000, the balance being on hand.

In 1947 an ordinance was passed granting the Illinois Power and Light Company authority to service the city of Columbia with electric energy for fifty years. The company agreed to re-wire, furnish fifty per cent of the street lighting, a White Way, and electric energy and gas to the Municipal Building and Parks free.

In 1948 an ordinance was passed regulating and licensing automatic musical devices and coin operated amusement devices. Concrete guttering and curbing was installed by Motor Fuel Tax Funds from Main Street to Legion to the G. M. and O. tracks.

In 1950 a 50 year franchise was issued to the Illinois Power Company to permit them to supply natural gas from the Mississippi Fuel Corp., whose main line is at the western limits of Columbia.

On the request of the Columbia Woman's Club the council agreed to submit the question of establishing a city library to the voters if a properly signed petition was presented to the Council. The petition was presented, the election was held and the vote was favorable.

In 1951 an ordinance establishing a uniform system for street numbering was passed. New street signs were purchased. The Harrisonville Telephone Co. announced plans for a dial telephone system with underground cables. This was completed.

In 1952 the council passed an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$215,000 in Water Revenue Bonds, for a 12-inch cast iron pipeline 6½ miles long to enable Columbia to purchase water directly from the E. St. Louis and Interurban Water Co. instead of the City of Dupo.

In 1953 garbage collection services were instituted and city employees placed under social security. In 1954 the Illinois Fire Inspection Bureau reports Columbia placed in Class 6 insurance rating, affording Columbia home owners an insurance saving up to 15%. A new addition to the Municipal Building is authorized by the voters for housing the rural fire department and the library. Metter street was widened and this included the razing of the residence of Mrs. Christina Weiss, who agreed to this procedure.

An election on Feb. 10, 1955 authorizes the issuance of \$18,000 in water revenue bonds for improvements to the municipal waterworks building. H. J. Friedrich and Sons were awarded the contract. Cost \$42,699.40. The water tower and tank repainted and repaired, the tank requiring a new steel welded bottom. The ½ per cent municipal retail occupation tax was put into effect. Valuation committees to work with the state highway department to procure necessary land for the new Freeway By-Pass right-of-way were appointed. The East St. Louis and Interurban Water Co., increased water rate 33½% effective Nov. 14, 1955. In 1956 the outstanding balance due for equipment purchased for the Columbia Fire Department by the medium of a bond issue was paid in full. A Control Center necessitated by the Harrisonville Telephone Co. putting in a dial system, was established. From this center police calls are taken and dispatched to the police force. Fire calls are received and the fire company dispatched to the fire. Fred Bruenig and Lillie and Gottlieb Schuhkraft through the medium of the county court asked annexation of 224.5 acres to the city. Request is granted. John Daab deeded 40 feet of his land to the city to be used as a street to be named Daab street, commencing at Metter Street and ending at Brigel street.

The position of general administrative clerk (assistant to city clerk and collector) was authorized with Alvin G. Klein the appointee. Trunk line intercepting sewer established in center strip of new highway from southern to northern city limits, interconnecting to disposal trunk line to Mississippi river. Feb. 13, 1957 a hearing was held at the City Hall on new Federal aid highway. Main street widening project was begun from Mulberry street to Cherry street with M. F. T. funds.

Ordinance passed establishing a sewer charge. New police car purchased. In 1957 a new 12-inch sewer disposal trunk line contract awarded to Eugene Luhr for \$65,446.30 for construction jointly on Federal Aid No. 4 state highway to sewer trunk line by contractor arrangement, financed by issuance of sewer revenue bonds in the amount of \$80,000 with 4% per cent interest authorized over 20 years.

In 1958 the city officially accepted the Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park, a 44.5 acre tract to be forever used as a public park and playground. The City Council appointed a 15 member advisory board of local citizens to assist with long-range public improvement programs and a city limits extension program. The council established the Columbia Public Library tax, not to exceed 1.2 mills. The library is managed by a nine member library board of directors, appointed by the City Council. The U. S. Weather Universal Storm Warning System has been adopted. The city purchased land for water standpipe and reservoir from Albert Kish and Mary Overall. Quit claim deed given to Albert Kish and Mary Overall to extend Cherry street to Water Reservoir. City installed brackets on utility poles on which to attach Christmas and other decorations.

Under consideration will be a water boosting pumping station, additional water line and standpipe reservoir, a sewage treatment plant, a sewage lift station and connecting lines, cooperation to the Cascade Hills subdivision and the establishment of final boundary lines for city limits.

With the completion of the new by-pass, Columbia becomes an ideal residential city, for the through traffic

from Illinois Route 3, 158 and Federal route 50, which plagued Columbia, is now on the outskirts of our city. The new by-pass, too opens up the prospect of more development both industrial and residential. When the next 100 years of history is written this will probably show the by-pass to be the point of beginning for a larger and more beautiful Columbia.



The Municipal Building houses all administrative offices, public library, auditorium for meetings of a civic nature, jail, police and fire departments. It houses all City and Rural Fire District equipment which is manned and serviced by the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, with 25 well trained members. The Illinois Inspection Bureau gives it Class 6 rating.

Columbia has a modern police department and its streets are regularly patrolled.

Purified Mississippi River Water is additionally chlorinated here and meets all Illinois State Board of Health and U. S. Health Service standards. Sewerage system consists of laterals, a preliminary treatment plant, pumping station and 5 miles of 12" outfall sewer disposal line to the Mississippi.

A Freeway from Columbia to East St. Louis is being constructed to prevent traffic congestion.



DESK IN LIBRARY 100 YEARS OLD



COLUMBIA FIRE EQUIPMENT, RURAL AND CITY



COLUMBIA SENIOR CITIZENS, 80 years of age or over are: Bottom row, George Eckert, 84; Charles Vogt, 82; Louis M. Huch, 84; Henry F. Schmidt, 81. Second row: John A. Eschmann, 80; William F. Doetting, 82; Henry Beckmann, 84; Adam Wierschem, 86; Jacob Ludwig, 94; Henry Reh, 84. Third row: George Ritter, 87; William F. Stumpf, 82; Gustave Juengling, 84; Fred J. Juengling, 86; August J. Ebersohl, 85. Bottom row: Mrs. Bertha Tunze, 82; Mrs. Emma Fiege, 80;

Mrs. Sybilla Van Luik, 90; Mrs. Jennie Rauch, 84. Second row: Mrs. Meta Schneider, 82; Mrs. Caroline Vogel, 85; Mrs. Emma Rauch, 84; Mrs. Emelia Giffhorn, 80; Mrs. Franciska Oexner, 82. Back row: Mrs. Caroline Gummerheimer, 88; Mrs. Barbara Bergmann, 92; Mrs. Pauline Haller, 81; Mrs. James Lemen, 81; Mrs. L. A. Vogt, 86. Others who registered were Mrs. Mary Ebersohl, 83; Mrs. Ida Grueninger, 85; Mrs. Louise Kossina, 82; Mrs. Emma Kruse, 83; E. L. Rauch, 82; Mrs. Louis Steppig, Sr. 81.





MISS COLUMBIA GIRLS—Front row: Judy Vogt, Carol Lee Daab. Back row: Mary Pearl Grueninger, Germaine Schaffer, Margaret Ann Kruse, Mary Louise Crowe, Karen Ludwig, Mary Lou Miller.

## Miss Columbia Presentation Program

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1959—2 P. M. (DST)

Prelude—Music "Columbia The Gem of the Ocean"—Columbia Community Unit No. 4 Band.

Welcome—Centennial Chairman—Arthur P. Wink, President Columbia Centennial Association.

Presentation of Flag—Mrs. Laura Kremmel, President American Legion Auxiliary.

Flag raising at Doughboy Monument and Pledge of Allegiance to Flag—Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Post Drill Team and Color Bearers, Kenneth G. Haller, Commander, Columbia Post 581 American Legion.

Star Spangled Banner—Columbia High School Band, Uhl Sackman, Director.

Invocation—Rev. Norman H. Rahmoeller B. D. Pastor St. Paul United Church of Christ.

Introduction of "Miss Columbia and Her Court of Honor"—

Leo A. Weilbacher, Sr., Chairman Queen Contest.

Presentation of "Miss Columbia"—Hon. Albert C. Metter, Mayor, City of Columbia.

Introduction of Platform Guests—City Officials and visiting dignitaries—Arthur P. Wink, Program Chairman.

Introduction of Speakers—Hon. Albert C. Metter, Mayor, Centennial Addresses—(Guest Speakers).

Benediction—Father Elmer Holtgrave, Immaculate Conception Church.

Musical selection—"America"—Columbia Community Unit No. 4 Band.



CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES—Front row: Miss Ernestine C. Smith, Mrs. Dorothy Eppinger, Mrs. Raymond Kremmel, Leo Weilbacher, Sr., Mrs. Melvin Gasser, Mrs. C. L. Volkert. Second row: B. D. Middleton, Herbert Schueler, James Crowe, Herbert J. Vogt, C. A. Hacker. Back row: Roy P. Conrad, Charles J. Gruening, Arthur P. Wink, L. A. Weilbacher, Jr.



STYLE SHOW COMMITTEE—Seated left to right: Mrs. J.J. Volkert, Mrs. James Crowe, Mrs. Melvin Gasser, chairman; Mrs. Paul Reyling, Mrs. Erwin Kossina. Standing left to right: Mrs. Ken Puckett, Mrs. Alvin Koch, Miss Ethel Mae Wink, Mrs. Vernon Smith, Mrs. Adolph Rohm and Mrs. Oliver Durrer.



Columbia Volunteer Firemen; First row: Edgar L. Steppig, Edward Vogt, Carl Landgraf, Theodore E. Klein, Chief Jacob Steppig, Alfred Crowder, Clemence Metter, William Klein. Middle row: Norman Schroeder, Raymond Schroeder, Ronald Raebler, Dennis McMullan, Harry Daab, James

Juengling, John Landgraf, Herman Krack, Herman Frierdich. Back row: Oliver M. Durrer, Edward Kremmel, Donald A. Stumpf, Marvin Bergmann, James Janson, E. J. Schorb, George J. Van Luik.

#### COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In the early history of Columbia the strident cry of "Fire" was all that was needed to get help to put out the fire. As you ran, you grabbed whatever would hold water, and brought it to the well, the pond or the spring or wherever there was a water supply. Then you lined up with people who were already there and passed the water from one person to another until it ultimately reached some of the most adventurous men who were already on the roof or wherever the fire was blazing. It was primitive, but amazingly effective as this writer can testify, for many's the time she joined a "Bucket Brigade". Before the water reached its target many other neighbors carried the furniture out of the burning house. Due to the excitement many's the time the dresser mirror was thrown out the window and the feather bed carefully carried down the steps.

Rubber buckets and a very primitive hand pump were the next step up in the evolution of Columbia's Fire Department. By dint of hard labor, water was forced to the fire by the old "up and down" with six men on each side. This apparatus was equipped with a rope about 25 feet long. The first to arrive at the engine house got the apparatus out and started to the fire. They were joined at every home by men and boys, with mother and the girls going along to help. The hose cart had to be gotten out, too. Girls who lived near the Engine House were known to have the cart well on the way to the fire only

to be ruthlessly pushed aside by men. Dogs always went to the fires in the good old days, yipping joyously. Later a tongue was affixed to the fire engine with horses to pull it, and later still, a gasoline powered pumper was purchased.

The first regularly organized Fire Department was commanded by Fire Chief Albert Lepp. With his gold fire trumpet he commanded the volunteers at the scene of the fire. He was assisted by E. L. Rauch, George Fiege, Ed Schneider, Charles Schneider and all the aforesaid helpers. Fire equipment was housed at the old City Hall. This was a rock structure on the site of the present municipal building. The council room was upstairs and the jail and engine house on the ground floor. A small park surrounded this building.

Here is a list of transactions taken from their records which show how the Fire Department evolved into the ultra-modern one we have today, staffed by firemen well trained in the art of fighting fires.

In 1886 a drott of a hook and ladder wagon was made by John Schmidt. In December 1888, 12 sections of Ayers ladders were purchased. In June of 1891 the hook and ladder wagon was ordered to be put into condition for the Fourth of July celebration and a team of horses hired to haul said wagon. Committee on arrangements were H. C. Schneider, J. A. Breidecker and H. N. Kutz. In October 1893 fire boxes were put up in various parts of town with fire extinguishers in them, the town marshal to keep them filled.

In March 1897 some fire engines were tested. On April 5 of that year an engine and hose cart was purchased from the Indianapolis Fire Company for \$645.22 and 400 feet of hose was purchased from the Goodyear Rubber Company for \$105. On March of that year a fire bell was ordered; also 400 feet of cotton hose. Dollar and Weinland built an engine shed and belfry for the fire bell. In June 1897 two rubber coats and helmets and a fire trumpet, and one hose hook were purchased.

December 6, 1897 three fire cisterns were built near the street; at the Catholic church; between Henckler's and Schaeffer's; and at Ernst Weinel's store. The cost for three was \$125. Three manholes cost \$18.

On July 4, 1897 the Fire Company had a big celebration. They invited the city to join in the festivities. The city bought powder to shoot the anvil, which was shot for the first time at the Brewery Blacksmith Shop, later at Rauch's Blacksmithy and then each blacksmith in turn, and there were many blacksmiths in town at that time. You turned the anvil upside down, stuffed it with gunpowder, then put in a wooden plug. Next you heated a long rod red hot and applied it to the powder and "Bang" goes the anvil. Just before the shooting, Charles Reis, a drummer boy and bugler in the Civil War, would stand in the doorway of his barber shop where Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richert now live, dressed to the teeth in his uniform of blue, and bugle furiously. Then the anvil was shot, and the Columbia Star Band paraded all over town playing patriotic airs, starting from the Turner Hall. No one slept after daybreak on the Fourth and it was a bad day for firemen. Fireworks were not taboo and small boys and very big boys took full advantage of this to make a racket, frighten timid little girls and all in all to live dangerously. There was an old cannon also in use in those days but it fortunately or unfortunately according to your point of view, blew up, injuring one of the citizens, hereafter called "Cannone Fritz", or "Cannon Fritz."

In March of 1900 a bell tower 50 feet high with four posts of steel was put up where our water tower now is, and the fire bell installed. In July of 1913 four more fire cisterns were put in. William Riebeling got the job on a \$147 bid. November 4 Peter Hoffman put in three more fire cisterns for \$147. In December of 1912 the village replaced fire buckets and all needed fire equipment.

But on January 20, 1917, of all things, the fire engines burned up under mysterious circumstances.

In February of 1917 the city bought a new fire engine. Mayor Rapp announced the reorganization of the Fire Department. Fire Chief Albert Lepp and H. N. Kunz set to work on this and in April 1917 George W. Smith, President of the Fire Company, reported 17 new members at the reorganization meeting.

Schmidt Brothers repaired the old engine, including suction hose and also bought 500 feet of fire hose at 73c a foot. On July 2, 1917 the village bought an additional 500 feet of fire hose. In January of 1920 the fire department was motorized.

#### ANOTHER REORGANIZATION OF THE FIRE COMPANY

Now begins a new epoch. On October 27, 1924, citizens and fire department members held a meeting to discuss adequate fire protection. E. A. Weinel presided, with Gus Schroeder serving as secretary. They decided to canvass the town and countryside, asking for contributions for modern fire equipment. Committees were set to work on the project. In December of 1924 there were \$1878 in the equipment fund from 102 memberships. The old Fire Department contributed \$106.75 and \$598 pledged. Gus Goeckeler, Jr., was elected chief, after Otto H. Vogt had been appointed, and John Landgraf, assistant chief.

They gave the Firemen's Ball — a novelty ball on Jan. 24, 1925 and cleared \$175, and now there was \$2515 in the subscription fund. The public school children donated \$100 to the cause. On March 3, 1925 the Village Council and firemen bought a General Manufacturing Company fire truck, Reo triple combination pump, chemical engine and hose cart. This was accepted by the village council and we had our first modern fire fighting equipment. March 23, 1925 the Columbia Fire Department gave a check to J. F. Lotz, village treasurer for \$3125 as part payment on the village fire equipment.

June 25, 1925 the fire siren was moved from the top of the fire bell to the Masonic Hall roof. The fire engines were kept in the old power house, and meetings were held there. October 1925 six coats and hats were purchased. Turkey and goose raffles were held at the Old Power House that year and the fire laddies sold fish sandwiches to make money.

January 3, 1926 they raised \$492.92 by a popularity contest and dance. Contestants were Nora Shook, Stella Eschmann, Cecelia Reiter, Louise Schneider, Eleanor Schmidt and Ardelle Huth. February 27, 1927 they made a profit of \$2438 on a Willys-Knight dance.

In July of 1927 the village and fire department traded in the Reo fire truck for a General Studebaker Metropolitan pump, booster tank and hose cart, and 1 Graham Bros. G. Boy twin copper tank chemical fire truck for \$9270, trade-in allowance \$4270 and \$3500 net cash, \$1000 after delivery of first truck and \$1500 after delivery of second fire truck. They had assets of \$8000 and borrowed \$1270.

In 1927 Leo A. Weilbacher was president of the fire company; John Landgraf, vice president; A. A. (Casey) Lepp, secretary; George Dehn, treasurer; Gus Goeckeler, Jr., Chief.

Jan. 26, 1929 the Fire Department gave a dance. Miss Lou Rauch won an Essex car in the popularity contest; Miss Dorothy Durrer won a Hudson sedan, and a La Grange, Illinois man won an Essex car. Other entrants in the popularity contest were: Helen Heise, Lucille Ebel, Aleda Grasshaw, Nelda Faus, Ruth Schneider, Esther Beckmann, Mildred Cash and Esther Kraus. Judges were R. P. Briegel, Miss Ernestine C. Smith and Ex-Fire Chief Panzer of St. Louis.

Following are the Fire Chiefs from 1925 to the present: John Landgraf, 1925; G. G. Goeckeler, Jr. 1926-28; John Landgraf 1929-48; Charles E. Brucker, 1949-51; Jacob Steppig, 1951-59.

Assistant chiefs through the years were John Landgraf, Sr., Jake Daab, Albert Lepp, Otto Salger, Theodore Klein, Jacob Steppig, John Landgraf, Jr., and Carl Landgraf.

#### COLUMBIA RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Columbia Rural Fire Protective Association was formed September 1939. On October 30, 1939 they purchased a 1940 Chevrolet white fire truck. Later the name was changed to Columbia Rural Fire Protective District. This district was organized at an election held Dec. 16, 1950. On January 24, 1953 this district purchased a 1952 Ford F-8 Red Fire Truck.

The present trustees of the Fire Protective District are Herbert L. Mueller, Robert C. Nolte and George A. Schmidt. These trustees are appointed by the County Judge.

The City Hall houses all City and Rural Fire Department Equipment. The Fire Department is manned and serviced by the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, with twenty-five well trained members. The Illinois Inspection Bureau gives the Department a Class 6 rating.



In 1942 when Civil Defense was set up in Columbia, the Fire Chief, John Landgraf, was appointed assistant coordinator to C. L. Volkert, the coordinator of Auxiliary Police; Otto Salger of the Fire Department was appointed Chief of the Rescue squad. The firemen also participated in two ten-week courses in Red Cross First Aid. Some of the members of the Fire Department at that time who were called to the colors were: George Van Luik, Louis Lepp, Ed Offerman, Walter Habermehl, Carl Landgraf and Thomas Bergmann.

Now records become scarce, as it is when all is well within an organization and only these notes are forthcoming: In 1943 they talked about overhauling the Studebaker Fire Pumper; in 1946 a Reo disaster truck, fully equipped was purchased for \$6500; a Dodge fire truck was in service; in October of 1949 a new Mack fire truck was purchased and donations were received for a portable resuscitator for the Disaster Truck, in the amount of \$916.30. That year there was a bond issue for fire fighting equipment, and a Mack Fire Pumper was purchased for the City Fire Department at the cost of about \$18,000. New By-Laws were the order of the day in 1950. To summarize: the present City equipment is a Mack fire truck, a Studebaker truck and a Reo Disaster Truck. The Rural equipment is a 1952 F-8 Ford red fire truck.

In earlier years, and from 1954 on, Columbia Firemen have attended the Firemen's School at Champaign—Gus Schroeder in earlier years and Jack Steppig and Carl Landgraf in later years. There they learn the newest methods of fire fighting. In July of 1951 Jack Steppig spent a day at Scott Air Base at Belleville learning how to deal with crashed jet planes in the event of a disaster.

The firemen have completely equipped a very modern kitchen in the Municipal Building where they can prepare a course dinner or just snacks for sociable fire meetings. They have a large capacity deep freezer to keep fish for their popular fish fries; a club room for playing cards; a meeting room in the basement.

They have been in charge of the Muscular Dystrophy drives from 1956 to the present for which they received a Citation of Merit. They also assumed the Infantile Paralysis drive in 1958.

In 1955 they adopted a new Constitution and By-Laws.

For some years, from 1952 on, they have sponsored soft ball teams and Khoury league teams both financially and by furnishing leadership. Carl Landgraf has been the manager, and has been helped by Oliver Roessler, Howard Moskopf, John Landgraf, Elton Schorb and Albert Jahn and others.

The Columbia Fire Department with modern equipment and twenty-five fire ladders ready and willing to answer calls any time, any where, is of great importance to Columbia. Before the wail of the fire siren moans its last alarm, the fire department doors are opened and the firemen on their way.

This department in Columbia is one to inspire confidence for they are quick to answer all calls and they are expert firemen with years of service. They all face peril and death together and should be honored for their selfless, loyal service to the community.

The fire calls, since the dial telephone went into effect, are received at the Control Center at the City Hall, where 24 hours a day someone is at the Control desk. Formerly the fire calls went to the telephone operators at the Harrisonville Telephone Exchange and the operators blew the siren there.

Officers and members for 1959-60: City Fire Department: City Fire Marshal, Jacob Steppig; 1st Assistant, Theodore E. Klein; 2d Assistant, Clemence Metter.

Officers and Firemen Columbia Volunteer Fire Company: President, Carl Landgraf; Vice President, Edward Vogt; Secretary, Alfred Crowder; Treasurer, Clemence Metter.

Firemen (25) Marvin Bergmann, Alfred Crowder, Harry Daab, Oliver M. Durrer, Robert Farr, Herman G. Friedrich, James Janson, James Juengling, Theodore E. Klein, William E. Klein, Herman Krack, Edward Kremmel, Carl Landgraf, John Landgraf, Jr., Dennis McMullan, Clemence Metter, Ronald Raebler, E. J. Schorb, Norman Schroeder, Raymond Schroeder, Edgar L. Steppig, Jacob Steppig, Donald A. Stumpf, Sr., George J. Van Luik, Edward Vogt.



The old engine house, city hall and "calaboose" torn down to make way for the new municipal building.

## TURNVEREIN THE COLUMBIA GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION

The Columbia Gymnastic Association, formerly known as the Columbia Turnverein, is one of our earliest social and educational organizations. It contributed much to the physical, cultural and social life of this community. It can truthfully be said that the Turner Hall was Columbia's community center.

This organization had its beginning in Germany. Father Jahn, a teacher there, felt that physical education and cultural education should be equally stressed. He organized the Turner movement. German immigrants brought the idea over with them and when the immigrants became established they wanted this medium of education and culture as part of their lives.

Accordingly a group of Columbia Germans met at the home of Gustav Pentzler in 1866. Mr. Pentzler acted as the temporary chairman to organize a Turnverein. It was long an ideal of his and he may well be called the Father of the Columbia Turnverein or Gymnastic Association as it now is called. "Verein" means society.

The Turner motto is "A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body." Another motto was "Frisch, Freie, Treue, Stark." This in English is "Fresh, Free, True and Strong." The Turner greeting was "Turner Gruess" or "Gut Heil" and headed all Turner communications.

Charter members were: John Philip Ebel, Wenzel Soukoppf, Charles Beck, Peter Reis, Henry Pretsch, Henry Beck, John Schmidt, John Kolb, Charles Schaefer, William Ebel, Joseph Stephan, Michael Herz, Gustav Pentzler, Daniel Kraus and August Mund.

First officers were: Philip Ebel, President; Wenzel Soukoppf, vice President; Henry Pretsch, recording secretary; Carl Schaeffer, corresponding secretary; Carl Beck, first instructor; John Schmidt, second instructor, Gustav Pentzler, treasurer, and August Mund, custodian.

The first new members were Charles Schuler, Frederick Walz and John Reinhold.

Present officers of the Columbia Gymnastic Association are: Charles J. Grueninger, President; Frank T. Toenjes, Vice President; Erwin Hankamer, Secretary-Treasurer; William Landgraf, Corresponding Secretary; William Schueler, William Rehlg and William Lengfelder, Trustees; William C. Gummshelmer, business manager; Pamela Horsley, pianist; and Harry Temperle, Turning School instructor.

Shortly after the first meeting Gustav Pentzler and John Schmidt were sent to St. Louis to purchase standard Turning school equipment. They must have gone by stage coach or horseback for there was no other means of transportation except on foot, and that was not unusual, for many went to St. Louis on "Shank's Mare."

The equipment purchased consisted of standard equipment, poles, rings, ladders, horses, parallel bars, mats, wands, dumbbells, and Indian clubs. After these were purchased, regular classes began, being held weekly. The Turner costume for boys was a white shirt, blue knee pants with a white stripe down the side. Girls wore a dark blue shirt, piped in white, over knee pants. (Later the girls daringly wore very full blue serge bloomers.) They also wore long black stockings and shoes of black either button or lace. All had to wear standard uniforms and all had to pay for their own. Turning School fees were 50c initial fee, and 25c monthly thereafter.

Meetings were held by candle light until 1867 when hanging oil lamps were bought.

September 6, 1866 the Waterloo Turnverein invited the Columbia Turnverein to help them celebrate their second anniversary. Both Turnvereins gave exhibitions of their athletic prowess.

The first October ball was held Oct. 7, 1866, at John Reinhold's Concert Hall. There was a dance and a Turner exhibition. This became an annual affair. We still have the October ball.

May 9, 1867 the first anniversary was observed with a picnic at "Oxen Pasture" or Union Park as it came to be known. This was across the tracks from the present G. M. and O. depot.

The first masque ball was held in 1866 on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent—the last fling of gayety before the penitential season, for Columbia always kept Lent. These masked balls were something special for besides costumes of all description and a good orchestra, a midnight supper was served. It was a feast, and your dancing partner as the midnight hour struck was your supper partner. The cook was "Grandma" Riebeling and she was a figure in Turner circles. She could cook an epicurean feast and dance an old fashioned waltz that would put Lawrence Welk to shame. She was in great demand as a dancing partner, eighty-odd years old though she was. She ruled her kitchen with an iron hand and volunteer help, and everyone who helped, felt that her hand was as heavy in discipline as her pie crust was light.

In 1869 a singing society was organized for men's voices only. This was chartered on Aug. 19, 1871. A teacher was hired for two nights a week to teach and direct. This was called the "Saengerbund". There were Bund choral feasts with Waterloo, Red Bud and St. Louis. When Columbia competed out of town, they hired a hack from A. F. Weinle to take them. The Columbia Gesangverein, a part of Columbia's first library, back in 1885 joined the Turnverein and became its singing section.

Anyone could join. There were no lines drawn, either religious or social. If you could sing you were in.

The Turners were duly incorporated as a non-profit organization, with profits acquired to be used for building or ethical purposes. Officers were: Henry Riebeling, President; Wenzel Soukoppf, Vice President; Gustav Pentzler, Secretary; Philip Ebel, Treasurer; Fred Meyer, sr. gymnastic director and Henry Heitzenroeder, custodian.

The objective of the society stated in the articles of incorporation were: the cultivation and advancement of body and intellect, the former by Turning, the latter by debates, music and other activities. It was organized as a not-for-profit corporation and all profits go for improvements, either physical or ethical. It is recognized as an educational institution, since Turning School is regularly taught and therefore it is tax-exempt.

In 1875 the society purchased John Reinhold's Concert Hall. Previously they had met there and given entertainments on a cooperative basis, with Turner members served free. The concert hall was purchased from the heirs of Henry Schumacher for \$800. The original building is still a part of the Turner Hall although it has undergone a complete transformation during the years, making it one of the finest structures of its kind in Southern Illinois.

In 1883 ground was purchased from the Henckler heirs for \$1000 for a park to surround the Turner Hall. There was a house on the land where the father of Fred Henckler, sr. was born. Trees were planted, an out-of-door pavilion for dances provided, out of door baking ovens and other innovations. The house was torn down later and the park now adjoins the city recreation center, becoming almost a part of it, for the Turners permit the grounds to be used for out of door activities.

In 1916 the Turners celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. Over a hundred members attended. The North St. Louis Actives class was present and with our classes gave

a gymnastic entertainment. Officers then were George Roessler, President; Julius Lotz, Vice President; Henry Reichenbach, corresponding secretary; Arthur G. Arnin, Treasurer; Alvin Klein, first gymnastic instructor; William Juengling, second gymnastic instructor; George Riebeling, custodian; Albert Lepp, E. J. Schneider and Fred G. Rapp, trustees and Conrad Zahn and Chris Dehn, banner bearers. The Turning teacher was William Thomason.

The Turner Homecomings were an annual event and exist to this day.

The L. M. C. Club, a group of young Turners, gave a series of dances and a minstrel show and gave the net proceeds, \$1200, to the Turners for a new hard maple dance floor. The Turner Hall also served as a meeting place for the G. A. R., the Sons of Union Veterans, the Hari Garis, the Damen Verein, the Modern Woodmen, the Legion and its Auxiliary. They also had a picture show for a number of years with Joseph J. Volkert, Jr. and Emil Brueker and Alvin Klein co-managers and picture operators.

We have taken this history from the records of the Turners. Records were first written in German, in the beautiful script of the educated German. Equally as beautiful were the English minutes of Emil Brueker who for many years served as secretary.

The metropolitan press acknowledged what the Turners contributed to Columbia as attested by this article in a Sunday edition of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat in 1936 in which they say:

"Seventy years ago in the little town of Columbia, Illinois, a jolly, robust German by the name of Gustav Pentzler called a meeting of fourteen members to discuss the welfare of the children of the growing community. Thus was born one of the first societies of Turners in America. Recently all Columbia turned out to commemorate in true German fashion that night in 1866 when the Turnverein became a part of the community to work for the good of its creed. 'A healthy mind in a healthy body' in the generations that followed in the small country town.

Today Columbia is predominantly German. It is an oasis of quaint beauty, less than an hour's drive from the smoky, grimy atmosphere of large cities. Its square, red, brick houses and neatly kept lawns speak for the traditional neatness of the Germans.

More than four hundred persons, invited by Charles Weisenstein, celebrated the anniversary of the organization of the Turnverein in 1866. German bands with their familiar tunes of "Ich Bin Der Doktor Eisenbart", "Die Lorelei" and that old time favorite "Das Schmitzel Bank" were heard all day. Under the shade of a large spreading elm, was the welcome sign "Beer".

The celebration was a continuous one, lasting two days and including a parade in which every child in Columbia took part. For it is for the welfare of the children the Turners exist. The history of the Turners is the history of Columbia or vice versa. The Germans settled in Columbia from 1833 to 1850. There were German revolutions in 1848 which hastened migrations.

In the years that followed the Turners recognized the need for a Community Hall where all of Columbia could take part in the Verein activities and singing parties of the musically inclined Germans.

Nine years after its organization, or in 1875, the Turners procured from one of its members, Henry Schumacher, the site on which the Turner Hall stands. All activities of the community center around the Turner Hall. It is the meeting place for all organizations with no discrimination for religion or social standing. There developed in Columbia a community spirit that has no equal. All its community projects are successful as a result of the Turner spirit. The organization grew and with it, the community. In 1916 plans for a larger building were realized. The organization had accumulated a treasury which, aided by contributions, produced \$8000. On their 50th organization anniversary the Turners dedicated their remodeled building to Columbia for community functions."

The leaders of the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Turners were: Charles Weisenstein, Fred G. Rapp, Walter Koeh, Dan Daab, Henry Beckmann and Arthur P. Wink.

When the Turners have only five members, and this will not be soon, for it is still a flourishing organization, the assets and property will revert to the Columbia public school. Early in their history they proudly purchased a bell for the new Columbia school.

Their last gesture will be to give their all for education in Columbia, surely a worthy gift from a society that did so much for education.



OFFICERS OF THE COLUMBIA GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY—Mrs. Lillian Landgraf, Mrs. Pat Vogt, Mrs. Pearl Grueninger, Mrs. Louise Shea



PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE TURNERS OF COLUMBIA GYMNASTIC ASSN. Front row, William Schubler, Wm. Longfelder, Wm. Rohg, Back row, Wm. E. Langford, Frank Hankamer, Frank S. Toenges, Chas. J. Grueninger, Wm. C. Gummshomer



## SCOUTING IN COLUMBIA

Scouting in Columbia has always been popular, the citizens furnishing leaders, sponsorship and financial assistance.

When the meeting place of the Boy Scouts, the old office of the A. F. Weinle Lumber Company, became too small and the meeting place of the Girl Scouts, the Columbia Public School, outgrew the space allotted, the citizens of Columbia, with the consent of the City Council, supplied a place in the Municipal Park for a Scout Hut; plans were drawn up gratis by Architect Oscar Kress of East St. Louis and funds were solicited to pay for materials for a Scout Hut for Columbia youngsters.

Then the magic that is Columbia's began to evidence itself. Columbia works together for anything that is for the good of the community. The Farmers' Co-op, with manager Roy Downs, brought the firm's big Oliver tractor over to the site in the Municipal Park, and excavated the basement; Fred Harres moved in with a team and scraper, and the Scouts and other helpers finished the job of excavating. Skilled workmen dug the sewer line for safety's sake; Senior Scouts and their fathers dug the water line; union men representing all the skills, from Columbia, Waterloo and Millstadt and even from St. Louis came on Saturday to help gratis; and a good time was had by all. Business men from Columbia and dads of Boy and Girl Scouts all turned out to help. Meals were served to the workers and liquid refreshments sent down to the Scout Hut by local tavern owners.

The Girl Scout mothers furnished the Scout Hut with donated, painted and refurbished furniture. Columbians gave \$650 to a solicitation committee of the old Lions Club assisted by the Boy Scouts, and a Hut was ready for the children of Columbia in 1938. The entire cost was not covered by subscriptions so Scout mothers gave parties and plays and liquidated the debt.

Camporees on the public school grounds and at the Municipal Park, with tents borrowed from Scott Field

at Belleville, were thoroughly enjoyed by both Boy and Girl Scouts. Later both Boy and Girl Scouts camped at Camp Vandeventer, near Valmeyer for a week, the Girl Scouts camping after the Boy Scout camping season was over.

Scout movements wax and wane. Today's scouting seems to be on the rise, with many good leaders who spend endless hours planning and working for the youth of Columbia.

### History of Cub Pack 19, Columbia

A charter was granted to Cub Scouts Pack 19, on May 14, 1941. The first cubmaster was Howard H. Hubbell. There were seventeen boys and five Den Mothers. This Cub Pack was under Columbia PTA sponsorship and has been, continuously, through the years, up to the present.

Following are the Cubmasters who served through the years: Howard H. Hubbell, Alvin E. Tunze, (Pack dropped December 1944 but re-registered in 1947); C. W. Gruninger, Erwin Withum, Jr., Lowell Andrew, Rea O'Neill, Oliver C. Hoffmann and Harry Niemann, the present Cubmaster.

In 1941 seventeen Cub Scouts were registered; in 1956, sixty; 1957-58 fifty, and at the present thirty-six are registered.

Den Mothers for 1958-59 are Mary Kriebel, Ardell Vogt, Bessie Riebeling, June Joseph, Margaret Henckler, Pat Thurman, Dorothy Niemann and Mary Ann Hoffmann. Den Chiefs are: Leslie Niemann, James Hoffmann, Bill Todd and Thomas Hermann.

Some of the activities of the Cub Scouts are: study and practice of conservation, serving as color guards in civic parades, music shows, pow wows, constructive hobbies and games.

Good sportsmanship, brotherly love and reverence for God and country form the foundation of all Cub Scout activities.

## THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IN COLUMBIA

The Boy Scouts of Patrol 1 were organized in Columbia in 1917. The sponsor of the troop was the Columbia Commercial Club; the Scoutmaster E. J. Schneider; the assistant Scoutmaster Edward Schoppe.

There is no record of this troop because it was a Lone Troop organized through New York Headquarters, and the records were not available. It could be assumed that the Commercial Club furnished the Troop members since they sponsored the troop.

In the minutes of the Commercial Club at the February 11, 1918 meeting, E. J. Schneider, Scoutmaster reported that nineteen boys passed their Tenderfoot tests. Monroe Gundlach has a sheepskin card issued to him January 18, 1918 by E. J. Schneider, Scoutmaster.

It was during the first World War to end all wars, and the government asked the Scout Troop to find walnut trees for the government out of which gun stocks were to be manufactured. This the Scouts did, thoroughly, as boys of that age are excessively active. Our recollection is that they served on all war drives with distinction and received a citation from the government for their assistance.

Some of the members of this energetic troop were Alvin E. Tunze (first to sign the charter), Adolph Dreher, Monroe Gundlach, Melvin Justus, Victor Breidecker, Edgar Schoening, Jos. J. Volkert, Jr. (the bugler), Erwin and Leonard Schoppe, Alex Rauch, Carl W. Richert and Miles Justus. There were more, but their names elude the writer.

In 1923 and for several years after Albert C. Metter served as Scoutmaster under American Legion sponsorship, during which time four of the Scouts became Eagle Scouts.

In 1927 Troop 1 under the sponsorship of the Evangelical Church, furnished Scoutmaster, Rev. E. J. Westerbeck, pastor of the church. This is the first troop registered in the E. St. Louis Boy Scout Headquarters.

The records from here on are through the courtesy of Mrs. Oliver C. Hoffmann and Mrs. Harry Niemann, who went to the East St. Louis Headquarters and researched for four full hours, making a detailed record for the Columbia Scout organization.

In 1928-9 Alvin G. Klein was the Scoutmaster of Troop 39; from 1930 to 1934, Rev. E. J. Westerbeck.

Troop 19 under Scoutmaster Ray Tunze, who served from 1934 to 1941; Rea O'Neill, 1942-45; Wm. D. Hamack, 1946; Gilbert Armin, 1947-51; Norman Kutterer, 1952; 1953 they dropped the charter, but re-registered in 1951 with Charles Schultz Scoutmaster. He served until 1956; Oliver C. Hoffmann has served from 1957 to 1959. The sponsoring organizations are as follows: From 1928 to 1939 the Evangelical Church and Sunday School; from 1939 to 1947 a group of citizens; from 1948 to 1959 the Columbia American Legion Post 581.

Assistant Scoutmasters through the years were: Homer C. Ludwig, J. Lewis Weible, Robert Volkert, George F. Vogt, Joyce L. Volkert, Jack Divers, Charles J. Lepp, Alvin Farmer, Elmer J. Bieher, Robert Goessling, Ervin Kossina and Harry L. Breitenstein.

The committeemen for this year are: Horace C. Volkert, Charles Schultz, Ernst W. Huch, Lester Eckert, James H. Garris, George Elder, Alphonse Vogt, Harry Niemann and Raymond F. Todd.

A Mothers' Auxiliary was formed on April 21, 1958 for the purpose of helping the Boy Scouts in securing money for their troop. Officers were: Mary Ann Hoffmann, Chairman; Priscilla Huch, Vice Chairman and Dorothy Niemann, Secretary-Treasurer.

## COLUMBIA GIRL SCOUTS

The Columbia Girl Scouts were organized on May 3, 1937. The organization meeting was held at the home of their leader, Miss Lucille Ebel. The Girl Scouts were sponsored by the Columbia Household Science Club. Mrs. F. W. Weinle was elected president of the troop committee and Mrs. E. G. Rauch, secretary-treasurer at a meeting held May 5, 1937 at the public school which for a time was their meeting place. Thirty-five girls wanted to become Scouts. A camping trip was proposed and it was held at Camp Vandeventer. Due to the resignation of Miss Ebel, who was to be married, Miss Coralynn Landgraf was named captain, and Miss Armina Nollau, Miss Winnifred Fiege, Miss Evelyn Ludwig and Miss Florence Rohm lieutenants.

In September of 1938 Mrs. C. L. Volkert was named chairman of the troop committee and Mrs. Virginia Landgraf secretary. Misses Marian Weinle, Kathleen Brucker and Viola Vogt were assistants to Misses Evelyn Ludwig and Armina Nollau at the camp which thirty-two girl scouts attended together with the troop committee.

In 1939 Captain Landgraf resigned and Miss Evelyn Ludwig took her place, with the Misses Winnifred Fiege, Marian Weinle, Dolores Fiege, Armina Nollau and Kathleen Brucker as lieutenants. The Scouts began selling cookies as a means of raising funds and this continues to this day. They also had card parties and conducted paper drives.

The Girl Scouts camped at Vandeventer in August of 1940 and again in 1941. In that year Mrs. John Landgraf was selected as troop chairman and Mrs. Rea O'Neill secretary-treasurer.

In 1941 Mrs. David Rydeen and Mrs. Rea O'Neill were named lieutenants to assist Miss Ludwig. Mrs. Virginia Landgraf was named chairman of the troop committee with Mrs. F. W. Weinle treasurer and Miss Jeannette Hills secretary.

At this time there were 22 senior scouts and 17 juniors. First Aid courses were given by Rea O'Neill and Home Nursing by the County Nurse. The Girl and Boy Scouts gave card parties and plays to help lift the debt on the Scout Hut.

In August of 1942 Mrs. F. W. Weinle was elected chairman of the general Scout Committee, Mrs. Esther Richert, secretary and Miss Dorothy Weinle treasurer. The Scouts again camped at Vandeventer.

In 1941 the records show that the Intermediates, the Brownies and the Seniors had separate organizations for the movement was growing by leaps and bounds. The meetings convey the many aspects of what the Girl Scout movement offers to the community. In 1945, 72 girls went to camp, an increase over the 1944 campers.

In August of 1945 Mrs. Fred Bruenig was made the new president with Mrs. Esther Richert, secretary. Due to the polio epidemic there was no camping at Vandeventer but a Day Camp was held here at the Scout Hut, 31 girls attending.

As the meetings become more complex we must, because of lack of space, give only the names of the chairmen from 1947 to 1959: 1946-47 Miss Alfrida Breidecker; 1948-49 Mrs. Eland Rudolph; 1950 Mrs. Alfrida Breidecker; 1951 Mrs. Gertrude Swartz; 1952 Mrs. Ida Thompson; 1953-55 Mrs. Jean Henderson; 1957 Mrs. June Brucker; 1958 Mrs. John Ryan. Present officers are: Chairman, Mrs. D. Bethenington; Vice Chairman, Mrs. John E. Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Daab; Treasurer, Mrs. Fred Eppinger.

## THE HISTORY OF SCHOOLS IN COLUMBIA

The earliest pioneer schools in Columbia were subscription schools. Each child had to pay a small sum of money or some medium of exchange, per month or quarter. The teacher "boarded around". Teachers were people who had a smattering of education and a desire to impart or share their knowledge with someone else.

Charles Walker taught a school in a log cabin within the corporate limits of Columbia near the Waterloo road as early as 1815. Levi Piggott kept a school in a log house near a spring that ran into Biggs Creek (now Palmer Creek), in a clearing in the woods a little north of Columbia as early as 1817.

Some of the earliest teachers in Columbia were Charles McCann, an Irishman; Albert Laphardt, a Swiss; James McKee, a Scotsman, and son of John McKee, second mayor of Columbia.

Books were scarce and the New Testament, biographies of prominent men, Bible stories and such books as the pioneers had brought along with them from their former homes were used as readers.

Arithmetic included addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Writing was taught by the teacher writing an old adage in his best writing on the blackboard, or the slate of the pupil. The pupil copied this over and over again until he became proficient in that saying and then another was substituted. If the teacher was a good writer, it is safe to say the pupil became a good one too.

With the coming of the Germans, education became more advanced. Germany had enjoyed a common school system as early as 1600. They had good schools and Sunday schools. The German immigrants, led by teachers and preachers came to this new country with the desire and firm resolution to found homes for themselves and their children by honest and hard labor. Merchants, skilled tradesmen and wealthy agriculturists came, and schooling became important. 1833-35 brought a number of highly educated Germans to Columbia and with them came the desire for education.

Three parochial schools were established early in Columbia's history: the Catholic, the Lutheran and the Evangelical.

While the Catholic parish was yet a mission a parochial school was established by the Rev. P. Baltes of Waterloo, in 1853. A log cabin was erected on what is now the sanctuary of the church and this was used as a school building.

Mr. Theodore Lemkes was the first teacher of the Immaculate Conception School. Until 1874 the school was taught by lay sisters. In 1874 the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Kentucky were given charge of the school. The first three sisters to teach at Columbia were Sisters Innocentia, Stanislaus and Veronica. In 1887 the Sister Adorers of the Most Precious Blood of Ruma assumed direction but in 1901 they were superseded by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Lay teachers again taught from 1907-09 when the Most Precious Blood Sisters returned. The original school was used until 1870, when the original church was remodeled and converted into a school building. In 1874 at a cost of \$2340 a one-story brick addition was added to the original church building to provide a home for the sisters who supervised the school. The building was further improved, enlarged and remodeled into three class rooms, when the parish acquired a neighboring property for a Sisters' residence. In 1921 a new school was built, and the

old one removed to make a playground. In 1938 a school bus was purchased to take high school students to East St. Louis high schools, and in 1946 a new bus was purchased for the same purpose.

A Lutheran school was erected in 1849 and this building was used as a church and school until 1854, when a separate church building was erected.

The earliest Lutheran Christian Day School teachers were Gottlieb Heid, 1849-54; B. Guenther, 1856-62; P. Rexe, 1862-65; W. Bunge, 1865-67; O. Geitenbach, 1867-75; P. S. Merz, 1880-81. From that time on the Lutherans called their own minister and he taught school also.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church also conducted a parochial school. The first confirmation class was confirmed in 1855 and every year thereafter, Rev. G. Steinert being the teacher of the first class.

It is difficult to ascertain from the records when the first school house was built. There is some evidence that the school was built shortly after the construction of a brick church in 1849, and that this building was also of brick; for in the minutes of 1887 it is indicated that both the old church and the school house were to be wrecked to get the good bricks from both buildings for the "backing" brick for the new church which was completed in 1888. Some of the brick from the 1849 church and school building are therefore in the north wall of the present church.

The minutes of January 1, 1875 record the authority to procure a school teacher. In May 1875 the first school board was named: Henry Denges, Jacob Bersche and Christian Dahmer. In 1877 the school closed temporarily because the teacher, Theodore Bornemann, left, and a new teacher was to be procured as soon as possible.

There is no further indication that a new teacher was ever procured and since the building was wrecked a few years later it can be assumed the children then went to the public school.

Special religious instruction was given by the pastors even on week days preparatory to confirmation, and this often extended over two years. It can reasonably be assumed that in the period from 1849-1874 the pastor did the instructing in the little brick school house adjacent to the church, as this was the established custom in smaller churches who could not afford a resident teacher. The names of the ministers and teachers of the school after Rev. Steinert who served from 1854-61 up to 1876 were: Rev. M. Fotsch 1861-63; Rev. T. Klingsohr 1863-66; Rev. E. Otto 1866-70. Rev. L. Reymann 1870-72; Rev. W. Wahl 1872-73; Rev. J. Hoffmann 1873-74; Rev. Carl Kautz 1875-1880.

These parochial schools must have been of a high order of scholarship for in 1889, the General Assembly of the State of Illinois passed an act concerning the education of children, and it was decided that the various private day schools under the auspices of the trustees and Pastor of the Columbia Roman Catholic Church and the private day school conducted by the Trustees and Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul church are regarded as schools under this act. This ruling was obtained by Charles Schuler of the Shoemaker school. There being no mention of the Evangelical Day School it is assumed that it no longer existed after the opening of the public school.

There were also a number of other schools in Columbia. A German school was taught in the Rudolph Landgraf home by Henry Heitzenroeder. The directors of this

THE OLD  
COLUMBIA GRADE AND  
HIGH SCHOOL.



RAZED  
TO PROVIDE SITE FOR  
NEW SCHOOL

school were John Weinel, Christian Beck, Henry Schumacher Christian Breidecker, and Edward Victor Heiligstedt. This school was bought by the above-mentioned trustees from George Divers for \$100 on October 2, 1854. There are yet blackboards on the walls and a hole in the ceiling from which the bell rope hung. This building was also used as a library and singing society (Gesangverein) meeting place after the building of the public school in 1876.

There was also a school in the Methodist Episcopal Church in a frame building in the rear of the Henry Kunz residence. This school was taught by James E. Varnum and a Mr. Reider. This building was erected in 1865; another Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was built in 1866, a brick building, on the site of the new high school. School was in session here until 1876 when the new public school was completed.

There were other schools in various parts of the city: the Ginder House in the Guy Haltenhof building, taught by Mr. Ginder; another in back of the Rose Drug store; another in the Harmacek house at Whiteside and Main taught by a Mr. Axley, then spelled Exley; James McKee taught the first "American" school where August J. Volkert's Tavern is now located.

The first public school building in Columbia was erected in 1876. It was a handsome brick structure with limestone trimming erected by Fred Koch and Son at a cost of about \$13,000. It contained six school rooms and two large halls. The records from 1876 to 1893 are lost so up to that time we have had to rely on our older citizens for information. They say the early teachers in the public school were Lewis and James Lemen; Mr. Weber, Mr. Dollinger, Mr. Limbach; Mr. Bergner, a former Lutheran school teacher; Mr. Holmes; Mr. Gans; Julia Wilson; John Delaney; James McKee. A list of Columbia teachers in an 1899 teachers list when Henry Eisenhart was county superintendent of schools includes Fred G. Rapp, Mueller school; Maggie Urney and Bank; Emilie Wagner, Eter and Nellie L. Weible, Riverview.

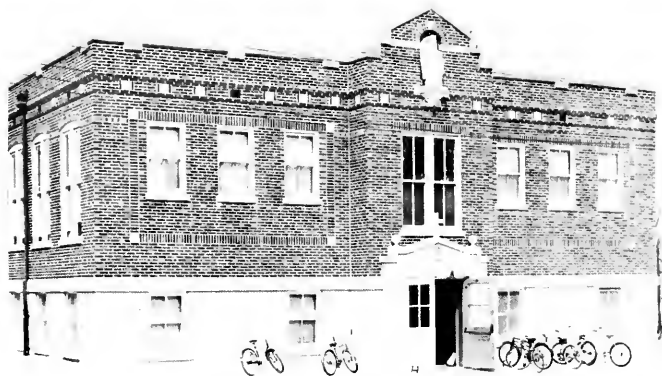
From 1893 to 1897 the teaching staff of the Columbia Public school was: E. T. Weible, Charles Breidecker, James McKee, R. P. Briegel and Lewis Lemen. In 1898 James Lemen replaced Lewis Lemen after Miss Julia Wilson substituted for Lewis Lemen for a short time. From 1899-1901 the teachers remained the same. In 1905 Lorenz A. Vogt was called and this corps served until 1910 when Mr. Weible

became ill, and W. C. Heyl taught in his place. Mr. Weible passed away in 1911 after one-third of a century of teaching. Many of these years he was director of music at Teachers' Institute. He also worked untiringly for the school library.

In 1910 Elbert Waller of Tamaroa, Illinois joined the staff. G. W. Smith petitioned the school board to establish a high school, which they did in 1910 with Elbert Waller the teacher. There was one pupil, Consuelo Joy Smith. In 1911 O. B. Harris took Mr. Waller's place. Other teachers on the staff were: R. P. Briegel, Mrs. J. M. Jackson, Lorenz Vogt, James Lemen, James McKee and Charles Breidecker. This year a few more pupils entered high school—Anna Belle Weible, Hilda Kunz, Leota Clark, Ardell Vogt and Consuelo Smith. This year Summers College of Commerce began a commercial school with J. W. Hurst and O. B. Harris as teachers. This was in the library room of the grade school. There were day and night classes with tuition.

In 1912 Mr. Breidecker passed away after 29 years of teaching in the school. Mr. Breidecker was an artist to his finger tips, and under his teaching of drawing some very beautiful work was achieved. It was the fad in those days to have autograph albums in which your teacher wrote a beautiful verse. Mr. Breidecker embellished his verses with the most exquisite of drawings, and lettered the verse so that it looked like a steel engraving. He was also a mathematical wizard, and the historian can well remember the thorough drilling he gave on mental arithmetic.

School picnics were always held on Pentecost Monday in the good old days, and that day there was generally a rushing of winds and a downpour of rain either in the morning before the start of the event or in the evening after it was over. This day was an EVENT in Columbia. Children, dressed in their best hub and tucker, assembled at the school at the call of the old school bell. Each child was given a flag and free tickets for pink lemonade. The parade assembled, with the Columbia Star Band leading. Each room fell in line, with room banners announcing the grades. There was shouting and general hilarity as the parade moved to the Lutheran and Catholic schools where these children joined in. The end of the parade was Turno Park where huge crocks of pink lemonade awaited the thirsty marchers.



IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
SCHOOL

The school board members, E. A. Weinell, F. G. Rapp, E. H. Gundlach, J. M. Arnin, Joe Rauch, and patrons of the school Emil Brucker, E. J. Schneider and G. W. Smith had pockets full of nickels which were awarded the youngsters for feats of skill or strength or just because.

In the evening the parade reassembled and marched back to the school, the band still gamely playing, and children still able to shout and sing.

The last day of school there was an entertainment in the Turner Hall. Each room gave a program of dialogs, recitations and songs and school was over for the year.

In 1912 women teachers were employed. This year saw Kitty Morgan, Elizabeth Daoust, now Mrs. F. W. Weinell, Louise Zimmer, Mary I. James, in addition to James Lemen, James McKee, R. P. Briegel and O. S. Hays. In August of 1913 O. S. Hays resigned and F. L. Eversull took his place. Olga Quernheim was added to the teaching staff.

In 1914 George W. Smith, a member of the school board petitioned for a four-year high school. He was aided and abetted by R. P. Briegel and F. L. Eversull. This was established and Francis Blair, then state superintendent of schools, came down from Springfield to inspect the high school, gave it his blessing, and so began Columbia's four year high school.

In 1913 the first two year high school graduating class included Anna Belle Weible, Hilda C. Kunz, Ardell Vogt, Leota Clark and Consuelo Smith, with O. S. Hays the teacher. The first four year high school graduating class was made up of Mildred Briegel, Harry L. Metter and Consuelo Smith with F. L. Eversull the teacher.

There was a shortage of teachers at that time, and Mr. Briegel and Mr. Eversull gave the necessary encouragement and push to propel a number of Columbia high school graduates to go on to college and become teachers. Many of them taught in the grades and high school here after they became qualified. It was the policy of the school board to give preference to home town applicants.

In 1915 the high school was accredited. The enrollment was getting larger and it was felt a community high school would benefit both the city and country. An election was held Jan. 20, 1920 and a community high school established, the vote being 107 for and 47 against. Fifty pupils were enrolled and Agriculture, Domestic Science and Commercial courses were offered in addition

to the college entrance work. A cafeteria functioned in the basement, for farm children enrolled.

But this school district was short-lived for on Feb. 11, 1922 it was dissolved, the vote being 985 against and 408 for.

In 1940 the cornerstone of the first part of the present high school was laid, and in 1941 the high school erected.

The second Community High School District, School District No. 4 was organized in 1951, which included a high school. This school district, then as now, includes a 62 mile area in and around Columbia.

Enrollment in the grades and high school grew rapidly and by 1954 the entire school was too small. In January of 1954 work was started on a \$496,000 project to enlarge and rebuild the high school and grade school. The school built in 1876 was demolished and a brand new and modern grade school built and the high school enlarged. This school is complete with music rooms, gymnasium, cafeteria, work shop and new and modern equipment throughout. There are six school busses for the out-of-town children, which deliver them in the morning and take them home at night.

To celebrate the completion of the buildings on February 18, 1956 a high school alumni reunion, banquet and dance was held at the high school building. Over four hundred alumni from the classes of 1913 to 1955, their wives or husbands, teachers of the school, past and present, and honored guests were present at the banquet and more came later. A guided tour of the school had been arranged by B. D. Middleton, superintendent of Columbia Unit No. 4, after which the group enjoyed dancing in the new gymnasium.

At that time in 1956, the school seemed spacious enough to accommodate Columbia's crop of young Americans. With the rapid expansion of the city, however, the school is now straining at its seams.

A number of the Superintendents through the years include: R. P. Briegel, Carl Struckmeyer, N. A. Rosan, Wm. Unzicker, and the present superintendent, B. D. Middleton, who came here January 4, 1951.

Some of the early school board members were: E. F. Schoening, J. M. Arnin, F. J. Miller, John Pfeiffer, Chas. Diehl, Sr., Hy. Giffhorn, H. N. Kunz, E. L. Bersche, Hy. Rueck, E. A. Weinell, E. H. Gundlach, F. G. Rapp, Jos. Rauch, G. W. Smith, Fred Kraus, Henry Beckmann, Dr. O. W. Bollinger, Chas. Schiemer, Dr. Richard Grossmann.



Space does not permit the naming of more.

The present corps of teachers includes: May Elizabeth Ahlberg, Emilio Bassy, Herta Berger, Leona Blowers, Harry J. Brinkman, Rosa Brinkman, Wayne Challacombe, Jacqueline Clifford, Robert Dosier, Mabel Evans, Viola Haltenhof, Eleanor Faye Homes, Carolyn Houser, Elmer Hunter, Florence Jaenke, Sherman Jarvis, Patsy Killian, Marie Kremmel, Janet Messerli, Roberta Meyers, Richard Purdue, Reve Rendleman, Mary Ann Roediger, Uhl Sackman, Reba Shelton, Vernon W. Smith, James O. Stanley, Anna Walker and W. S. Woodress.

The present Board of Education includes Harold Harres, President; Oliver Rey, Secretary; John L. Gummerheimer, Wilbert Kremmel, William McConkey, Walter Rodemich and Robert P. Cash.

B. D. Middleton is the Superintendent. Mrs. Morris Frank, Secretary.

P. T. A. Officers are: Mrs. Orville Schmidt, President; Lester Deffenbaugh, Vice President; Herta Berger, Secretary; Mrs. Alvin Lepp, Treasurer.

#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1959

In this Centennial year, 1959, Columbia high school won awards in music and in basketball which will be difficult to duplicate.

The Columbia High School Band, under the direction of Uhl O. Sackman was awarded a superior rating at the District Music Contests held March 4 at Bethalto, Illinois. This is the first time that the Columbia Band had been awarded a rating of 1 in a District contest, which entitled it to participate in the State Finals.

At the State music contest held at McMurray College at Jacksonville, Illinois, Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25 Larry Vardiman received superior rating for a French horn solo; the woodwind duet composed of Jackie Andrea and Janet Baltz, good rating and the concert band excellent rating.

Other solo and ensemble entries consisting of Larry Stumpf, alto saxophone solo; Harold Weisenborn, trombone solo; Arnold Stehmesser, trumpet solo; Karen Klein, Larry Stumpf and Judy Langhans, saxophone trio and Connie

Kremmel, Shirley Deffenbaugh, Pat Pomeroy and Janet Baltz, piano accompanists all were awarded excellent ratings.

These accomplished young people, guided by Uhl O. Sackman, director, are waxing a record of this award-winning music, which they will package in Centennial garb and sell as souvenirs of the Centennial.

The Columbia Eagles basketball team, also spread their wings this Centennial year and turned in one of the greatest seasons in the history of the school, a 29 and 2 record, including the O'Fallon Invitational tournament, the District Championship and the Kaskaskia conference championship. Nelson Mathews was selected on the All Southern team of the State of Illinois; received outstanding commendation on the All-State team and was selected to the East Side All Stars. He is a four year varsity man.

The coach of this championship team is Elmer Hunter; assistant coach Emilio Bassy. The team includes Richard Roessler, Ronnie Edmonds, Harold Weisenborn, Roger and Ralph Schneider, Art Ritter, Ricky Kean, Nellie Mathews, Larry Pieper, Melvin Reh, Jerry Landgraf and Chester Vogt.

In 1950 the Eagles were District Champs under the leadership of Coach Edd L. Ghent, with a 23-10 record. Way back in 1920 or 21 the high school made a clean sweep of all events in a county field meet and were county basketball champs. Robert English was the coach at that time.

Some of the records of the baseball team of Columbia High are as follows: Kaskaskia Conference won by Columbia in 1911; County Conference Champions in 1950; Columbia is Kaskaskia Conference Champion in 1959 with a conference record of 8 wins and 0 losses. Boys on this year's team are Roger Schneider, Ralph Schneider, Captain; Harold Weisenborn, Nelson Mathews, Larry Pieper, Marvin Rodemich, Art Ritter, Chester Vogt, Richard Roessler, Melvin Reh, Ralph Wink, Ronnie Edmonds, Marty Knempf, Jerry Landgraf, Arnold Stehmesser and Curtis Hayden. The team was coached by Vernon W. Smith.

The team record for 1958-1959 season stands at 24 wins and 6 losses with two games remaining to be played at the date of writing May 6, 1959.





**ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**



**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**



**RESIDENCE OF THE SISTERS OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL**



**PARSONAGE OF ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The history of St. Paul's Evangelical Church, known later as St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church and now as St. Paul United Church of Christ.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church was founded in the year 1849 through a Rev. Christian Schrenk, who came from New Orleans and served the church from 1848-49. He was commissioned to America in 1844, having received his ordination in London. After a year in Columbia, he returned to New Orleans, but must have returned later as his tenure was from 1849-1854. Rev. G. Weitbrecht, who was the pastor at Zoar Evangelical Church at New Hanover, also preached at Columbia in 1849 and 1850. A brick church was erected here in 1849 which served the congregation until 1888.

Following Rev. Christian Schrenk came Rev. G. Steinert who served here from 1854-61; Rev. M. Fotsch 1861-63; Rev. Theodore Klingsohn 1863-66; Rev. E. Otto 1866-70; Rev. L. Reymann 1870-72; Rev. W. Wahl 1872-73; Rev. Julius Hoffmann 1873-74; Rev. Carl Kautz 1875-80; Rev. Julius Hoffmann 1880-83; Rev. L. H. Buehrig 1883-1890; Rev. Theodore Krueger 1890-93. The next three pastors, Rev. G. Doernenberg, Rev. W. Schlinckmann and Rev. E. J. Westerbeck served successive periods of fifteen years each. In the interim between Rev. Schlinckmann and Rev. Westerbeck, Rev. J. Nollau of Waterloo, served Columbia for six months. Rev. G. A. Friz came to Columbia from Quincy, Illinois on January 25, 1939 and is still serving in 1959, a period of twenty years. On April 27, 1958 the congregation called the Rev. Norman H. Rahmoeller as co-pastor, thus beginning a dual ministry for St. Paul. Rev. Rahmoeller began his ministry on August 1, 1958.

The history of the Evangelical Church begins in Germany. The Reformed Church or German Reformed Church was established in 1747. The Evangelical Synod was the union in 1840 of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches in Prussia. This union met with considerable opposition. However it was most successful in the regions of Westphalia, along the Rhine; in Baden; and in Hesse-Kassel and Hesse-Darmstadt. The result of the union of the Reformed and Lutheran churches was not one church, but three, for another denomination was formed. This was known as Die Ueierete (United) Church or the Evangelical Church. Many of the Columbia immigrants came from these regions, and helped to found the Evangelical Church in Columbia.

The tide of German immigrants in the early 1800's left their homeland because of high taxes, political oppression, hard times and religious tyranny. They made their way to America, many landing at New Orleans and then up the Mississippi to St. Louis and some eventually settled in Columbia. These immigrants wanted to worship God, free from religious and political tyranny, and they were ever watchful of anything that smattered of oppression. As a consequence, most of them opposed slavery and were willing to fight for their belief, many of them volunteering their services to President Lincoln.

The early records of the church deteriorated and are illegible because of an improperly sealed cornerstone in the second church. This second church was proposed in 1879 and was finally built and dedicated in 1888. This church served until 1927. The cost of the second church was \$7000 and by 1893 the congregation had liquidated the debt.

In 1926 it became apparent that the church was too small, and under the pastorate of Rev. Westerbeck it was enlarged at the cost of \$71,000 and the new church dedicated in February of 1927.

In 1946 the congregation was planning for the Centennial in 1949. The Sunday School was too small, the church attendance had grown and the church was too small. The congregation decided to enlarge the church, install a new organ and chancel and redecorate the church. On Sunday, Oct. 16, 1949, this new building was dedicated.

In 1955 a Program of Progress, involving a new parsonage to be built to the north of the church, the conversion of the old parsonage into an educational unit, and some minor changes in the church building proper, was planned for completion by 1957. The final costs of these improvements exceeded \$50,000. The entire church and parsonage area of one block frontage had been completely altered in appearance by the completion of the projects. The new parsonage was dedicated in September of 1956. The brick parsonage which was built in 1873, enlarged in 1908, was converted into an educational unit. The Rev. Norman H. Rahmoeller took up his residence in the parsonage in August of 1958; the Rev. Dr. Friz now resides at 302 W. Gundlach St.

At present (April 1959) the congregation of over 1400 souls is planning for the 110th anniversary to be observed in October 1959.

In 1939 a new constitution was adopted and the church officially incorporated under the name of St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church. With the merger in 1958 with the Congregational Christian Church, the congregation was to be known as St. Paul United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed). When final merger proceedings have been accomplished the church shall be a part of a denomination of over two million members—the United Church of Christ.

For more than fifteen years, the congregation has met all of its expenses and the costs of all building projects by a method of direct giving, depending entirely upon the free-will gifts of the members without resorting to any money-making affairs. The splendid support in the past years attests to confidence among the membership in this laudable method of church support.

Church personnel includes: Rev. Gerhard A. Friz, D. D., Pastor; Rev. Norman H. Rahmoeller, B. D., Co-Pastor; Mrs. A. Klein, Organist; Mrs. Charles E. Brucker, Secretary; Delbert Arras, Custodian-Sexton; Mrs. Clara Kilian, Housekeeper; Mrs. A. Krupnik, Choir Director; Miss Dolores Fiege, Assistant Organist and Children's Choir Director; Mrs. F. Eppinger, Girls' Choir Director.

The Sunday School statistics show an enrollment of 396 pupils and 63 officers and teachers for a total of 459. There are 76 on the cradle roll which includes the non-attending nursery and pre-nursery children. This makes a grand total of 535 on the Sunday School roll.

The Consistory includes: Elders: W. E. Stanhope, President; Paul Heisler, Vice President; Herbert Schneider, Deacons: Mrs. William Kuergleis, Financial Secretary; Ray Ramsey, Treasurer; Miss Carrie Hoffmann; Financial Secretary; Mrs. Walter Giffhorn, Sr.

The Evening Guild President, Miss Dolores Fiege; Vice President, Mrs. Richard McCallan; Secretary, Mrs. Robert Winters, Treasurer, Mrs. Gene Pomeroy.

The Churchmen's Brotherhood, President, Herbert Schaefer; Vice President, Oscar Roxyer, Secretary, Rob-

### 1959 Officers of Organizations

The Women's Guild: President, Mrs. Elmer G. Baugh; Vice President, Mrs. John Jahr; Secretary, Mrs. Theo. Klein; Treasurer, Miss Carrie Hoffmann; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Walter Giffhorn, Sr.

The Evening Guild President, Miss Dolores Fiege; Vice President, Mrs. Richard McCallan; Secretary, Mrs. Robert Winters, Treasurer, Mrs. Gene Pomeroy.

The Churchmen's Brotherhood, President, Herbert Schaefer; Vice President, Oscar Roxyer, Secretary, Rob-

ert L. Tunze; Treasurer, Victor Breidecker.

The Junior Women's League: President, Mrs. Paul Heisler; Vice President, Mrs. Fred Weisenborn; Secretary, Mrs. Billy Lewis; Treasurer, Miss Lydia Theobald.

The Youth Fellowship: President, Richard Kean; Vice President, Betty Durrer; Secretary, Evelyn Lammers; Treasurer, David Brinson; Adult Advisors, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Divers.

The Fideista Bible Class: President, Mrs. Lucretia Schueler; Vice President, Miss Hulda Breidecker; Secretary, Mrs. E. T. Lark; Treasurer, Miss Olivia Arnin.

Sunday School: Jack Brucker, General Superintendent; Paul Heisler, Assistant General Superintendent; Mrs. Raymond Kremmel, Secretary; Arthur Klemm, Treasurer.

### HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church is the church named after the great Reformer, Dr. Martin Luther. This church accepts the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the infallible, revealed word of God; and adheres to the "Book of Concord" from the year 1580 as its confession.

The history of St. Paul's of Columbia dates back to 1841 when Pastor George Albert Schieferdecker did missionary work here and also at Holy Cross Church in Sugar Loaf. He was serving as a pastor of the Holy Cross congregation in Wartburg at the time. Services were conducted in the farm homes of Jacob Beck and Heinrich Schmidt, and other farm homes. In 1846 Jacob Beck moved to Columbia and from that time on services were conducted in Columbia.

At this time it seemed there would be a large congregation, but there was a division of thought and many subscribed to the Reformed doctrines, and severed their connections with the Lutheran church. Only a few remained loyal to the Lutheran Confessions, and these were served by Pastor Schieferdecker until 1849. In that year he was called to Altenburg, Missouri.

Pastor Schieferdecker was one of the seven hundred people who emigrated to America from Saxony, Germany in 1838. These people wanted to go to a land where they could worship God in safety according to the dictates of their conscience.

Pastor Schieferdecker was one of the original signers of Synod's Constitution. He also served as the first president of the Western district of the Lutheran church. This district was organized in 1854 and consisted of 122 congregations, 46 pastors and professors, and 11 teachers in the states of Missouri, Illinois and Louisiana.

From 1849 to 1881 the Columbia Lutheran church had its own parochial school teachers, Gottlieb Heid serving as the first teacher in the Christian Day School.

In 1849 a brick building 36x44 feet was erected at a cost of \$2300 which served as church and school, and here Mr. Heid taught from 1849 until 1854. Further school teachers of this Christian Day School will be found in the history of Columbia Schools in this book.

Pastor Renneke was called to Columbia in 1850. He served this congregation and the Holy Cross congregation at Sugar Loaf from 1850 to 1855. In 1849 the Columbia congregation was formally organized and joined the Synod in 1851.

Because of crowded conditions in the school, where services were also being held, in 1854 the congregation voted to build a church. This also was of brick construction. It was dedicated in 1854 and to this day stands, now being in use as a home. One of the principal speakers at

the dedication was Dr. F. C. Walther, first president of the Synod.

In 1855 Pastor Renneke accepted a call to another parish. St. Paul's of Columbia, Holy Cross of Sugar Loaf and Trinity (Millstadt) united in one parish and Pastor F. W. Holls became pastor of all three. He served the parish for 27 years. Due to increased enrollment (about 70 children), in 1870 a new school was built. This was also a brick building. In 1882 Pastor Holls accepted a call to New Jersey.

The congregation called a pastor of their own in 1882, Pastor A. O. Engel from Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He came to Columbia in 1883 and stayed two years. From 1885 to 1887 students from the Seminary in St. Louis came to conduct services.

In 1887 Rev. E. Schlingman came for two months and resigned. In 1888 Rev. G. W. Langehennig became the pastor of the church. During his stay a member of the congregation willed the congregation a two story brick house and a building site. The member was A. J. Reinbothe. In 1898 Rev. Langehennig left and Rev. H. Meyer came to the congregation. During his ministry the two story house was remodeled to serve as a parsonage. Other ministers up to the present time were: Rev. J. Bucka, 1901-03; Candidate W. F. Wilk, 1904-08; Rev. P. Hassenflug, 1908-10; Candidate H. F. Ramelow, 1911-13; Rev. H. A. Huebotter, 1913-16; Candidate G. Groerich, 1916-21; Rev. J. Losse 1921-26; Rev. F. Duecker, 1926-36; Rev. N. Hildebrandt, 1936-56; Rev. Herman C. Lehenbauer, 1956-.

During Rev. F. Duecker's pastorate the present church was erected. It was finished in 1927 at a cost of about \$15,000, most of this paid in cash by members and friends.

This congregation is affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the tenth largest single church body in America, numbering more than two million Christians.

In Springfield, Illinois and in St. Louis, Missouri there are Lutheran Seminaries, training camps for ministers. At 3558 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, is the Lutheran Publishing House; also the offices of the "International Luther Hour"; the Lutheran Laymen's League and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The youth program, the Walther League, has headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

The congregation numbers 333, of which 190 are communicant members.

Church organizations are: Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, Church Membership Classes, Bible Classes. There are also The Ladies Aid Society, the Men's Club, the Walther League, the Married Couples Club and the choir. Officers of these last are as follows:

Ladies Society: Mrs. Marvin Mueller, President; Mrs. Paul Koblitz, Secretary; Mrs. Hazel Roessler, Treasurer.

Men's Club: LeRoy Mochrs, President; Marvin Mueller, Secretary; Otto Salger, Treasurer.

Walther League: Jackie Wayland, President; Connie Kremmel, Secretary; Kenneth Hinrichs, Treasurer.

Married Couples Club: Vernon Smith, President; Mrs. Harold Diehl, Secretary-Treasurer.

Choir: Mrs. Ralph Mathews, Director.

Sunday School Superintendents: Melvin Fritz and Stanley Herbst.

## HISTORY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH AND PARISH, COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS

Germans of the Catholic religion, primarily from Bavaria and a few from Hanover, arrived in and around Columbia about 1835. Among these were Robert and Peter Friedrich, Joseph Platz, Valentine Janson, John Beckerle, John Pfeffer, John Bohlmann, the Petris, Gundlachs, Mosbachers and Weckers.

During the years from 1840 to 1860 came the Brands, Schmidts, Kuehnerts, Wildes, Riebelings, Schulers, Eichmuellers, Reis, Ritters, Koenigsmarks, Vahles, Kolmers, Weibachers, Habermehls, Juenglings, Oexners, Hermanns, McQuades, Knotts and others.

At first they attended church at St. Thomas Church established around 1835 to 1840. This was about six or seven miles away, or they went to Cahokia, ten miles away, or to Belleville, a full day's journey. The first services were held in the home of Dr. Knott, with Rev. Ostlangenberg of Belleville. Later on services were held in the homes of the Oexners, Einwichs and Friedrichs. Among the visiting missionaries were Rev. Philip Raphael, Rev. M. Prendergast, Rev. H. Liemann, Rev. J. Gallagher and Rev. P. J. Baltes.

Next a permanent location for a church was a log cabin on the property recently acquired from Fred Juengling. In 1846, Dr. Knott, Peter Friedrich, Joseph Platz, John Beckerle, Valentine Janson and others urged the erection of their own church. James McQuade donated the ground, Lot 25, original town of Columbia, then dug the foundation himself. Others donated stone, lumber, and did the work themselves. The church was small, 60x35 feet, but it was their own church. This new parish was founded in 1846 and dedicated to Mary Immaculate and called the Immaculate Conception Church.

In 1858 Rev. Arnold Pinkers of Belgium became the first resident pastor. He made his home with Peter Friedrich, who lived a mile from the church and Father Pinkers thought it advisable to have a parish rectory, which was erected on Lot 6 for \$1688.00. The lot was bought from Mary Christy for \$15.00.

In 1860 came Rev. Francis Bloesinger and in 1861 Rev. Wm. Koenig. During this time church bells were purchased—"Henry" weighing 1004½ pounds and "Elizabeth" 275 pounds. The price was \$982.50. Rev. Koenig died and the parish was without a priest for six months. In 1863 Rev. Julius Maurer, a native of the Tyrol came. The church was becoming too small so Lot 27 was purchased from Henry Schumacher and in 1866 a brick building 90x55, seating capacity 400, was erected. The final cost was \$9,585.00. It was dedicated December 12, 1867. During March of 1870 the town disbanded its town square at the intersection of Main and Market and deeded the 60 foot frontage of Lot 25 to the church. After 27 years in Columbia, Rev. Maurer returned to the Tyrol, where he died in 1919. In 1892 Rev. Bernard Claus was named to the church. During this period three Gothic altars, a new confessional, a communion railing, and a new heating system were added. On May 19, 1903 Father Claus died of a heart attack, and his assistant, Rev. Joseph Duenn of St. Louis was appointed administrator until Rev. Henry Goosens was made pastor. In 1916 Father Goosens resigned the pastorate because of ill health.

Rev. Charles Kuhlman was appointed in 1916. During this time a modern brick school was erected. The old school, which was the original church, and which had been enlarged and remodeled several times, was too small. Lots 7 and 8 were chosen as the site of the school, and a four-room one story brick building with basement,

facing Washington street, north of the convent was erected at a cost of \$16,000.

In 1923 Father Kuhlman died and Rev. Otto Meier became pastor. In 1927 the size of the church was doubled and the outside stuccoed, the improvements costing \$31,000. First services in the church were on February 12, 1928 and the dedication was on September 3, 1928 by the Most Reverend Bishop. In April 1930 Father Meier died, loved and esteemed by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Shortly afterward Rev. J. F. Wiener was appointed. Under his administration the parish cemetery was placed in excellent order. On April 4, 1934 Rev. John F. Schreuder became his successor. In 1937 Rev. Schreuder visited his home in Holland and Rev. Gabriel Verkamp, O. S. B. assumed his place. In 1938 the Bishop obtained a school bus to take high school age children to Central Catholic High School and St. Teresa Academy at E. St. Louis.

The church centennial was to be celebrated in 1946 and in honor of this auspicious event the church was re-decorated and stately marble altars were donated by members of the parish. The high altar was in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weibacher by their children; the Blessed Virgin altar by Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Vogt; the St. Joseph altar in memory of Mrs. Mary Menner by Leo Menner. Improvements and decorations cost from 1935 to 1946, \$12,700.

In 1946 at the close of one hundred years of existence the families of the parish numbered 240 with about 810 souls.

On October 17, 1905 the church was robbed and rifled. Two months later the thief again returned and sacred vessels were stolen. Eight other robberies occurred in the community that same night. Twenty-two years later, or in 1927, the sacred vessels were found buried beneath a railroad bridge near the city.

On October 24, 1946 the present church was consecrated by His Excellency The Most Reverend Henry Althoff, D. D.

In the spring of 1954, Father Schreuder was granted a two and a half month leave of absence to regain his health, and on June 3rd of that year left for a visit to his native land of Holland. During this leave Father Kushler was assigned to the parish. The year 1954 having been declared as the Marian Year by the Holy Father the parish entered a float in the American Legion parade that year entitled "Our Lady of Fatima" which attracted much favorable comment, and was awarded the third prize. Father Schreuder returned from his leave in the early fall of 1954. His health was not greatly improved. During the early days of 1955 he was successful in establishing The Holy Name Society in the parish and on January 30, 1955 at evening services a group of men were received into this organization with Carl A. Reis serving as the first president. Father Schreuder was jubilant over the formation of this organization. He did not live to see it thrive and grow for on February 26, 1955 he was called to his eternal rest after having served the parish twenty-one years. During this time the parish made great progress.

Rev. Charles Hellrung of Waterloo was appointed by the Bishop as Official Administrator and Father Meskenas who was assistant pastor at Waterloo was sent to take official residence at Columbia and to conduct all parish affairs until a successor was appointed. On Sunday, May 8, 1955 the Holy Name Society sponsored the first Mothers' Day Breakfast, which was well attended.

In August of 1955 Father Alphonse Schomaker was appointed as pastor. He promoted activity in the Holy Name Society by securing playground equipment for the

school children; and the building across the street which was known as the "Lepp building" was wrecked and a spacious parking lot created. Father Schomaker directed much attention to the youth of the parish. Due to the increase in the number of parishioners over the past ten to fifteen years, it became a problem to properly accommodate them all on Sundays in the two masses and during Father Schomaker's pastorate arrangements for three masses on Sunday came into being.

In August of 1956 Father Schomaker was transferred to Centralia, Illinois and Father Elmer J. Holtgrave from Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois was appointed as pastor of the Parish and is so serving at the time of this, the Centennial Celebration of the City of Columbia, Illinois.

Father Holtgrave is an energetic individual, a person who is cognizant of the need for planning ahead. Prior to his appointment here he was appointed by the Bishop as Defender of the Marriage Bond in the Marriage Court of the Church in the Diocese of Belleville, an office which required many hours of his time. Despite this, he has worked untiringly to meet the many problems confronting the parish. He was faced with various major problems where the question of finances enters the picture.

The interior of the church was in need of redecoration and this project was completed in 1958. Expansion of playground facilities was a pressing matter. This meant the acquisition of some adjacent properties. Father Holtgrave was successful in purchasing the entire block to the west known as the Juengling property. This was secured for \$30,000.00. The old rectory which was located north of the present church building was purchased for \$20,000.

With this property acquired the Mayor and City Council and the parish worked out an arrangement whereby the parish might acquire the two streets running between certain sections of the parish property, that is, the streets named Washington and Market. The Mayor and City Council manifested a deep interest in this project feeling it would eliminate the present hazard to the school children. The difficulty was worked out by the city closing the two streets. The parish agreed to the widening of the existing streets that is, Metter Avenue, Liberty and Madison Streets, ten feet along the entire parish property, with some monetary payment by the parish.

An expansion drive was conducted which met with good success, the goal set being \$125,000.00. At the conclusion of the drive in the early part of 1958, \$127,268.68 had been pledged which amount was increased by late contributions after the close of the drive. The school building was redecorated on the interior and other modernization work done there. Additional cemetery ground has been acquired. Thorough inspection of the church building by engineers has been made and roof construction strengthened. Unless something unforeseen develops the church building should last for another twenty-five years. Sidewalk reconstruction programs have taken place and plans are underway for the construction of a very modern rectory during 1959.

In April of 1957, Father Ronald Glennon was appointed Assistant Pastor. He manifested much interest in the youth program in the parish and did much to develop the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the parish. His stay was short inasmuch as in November of 1958 he was transferred to Carbondale, Illinois in charge of the Newman Center there. Father Vito Lopardo suc-

ceeded him as assistant pastor and is serving in that capacity at this time.

During the early part of 1959, Father Elmer Holtgrave was appointed by His Excellency, Right Reverend Albert Zuroweste, Bishop of Belleville Diocese to the office of Presiding Judge of the Belleville Diocesan Tribunal.

Through the years various parish organizations have functioned, the history as best obtainable from the records reflects the following: Altar Society, established in 1859, and will therefore also celebrate its Centennial during this year of 1959; Sewing Society, established in 1906, and in the Centennial year of the parish in 1946, Mrs. Sybilla Van Luik was serving as president and Mrs. Ida Gruninger as treasurer; the Catholic Knights and Ladies of Illinois, St. Joseph's Branch, was organized May 31, 1884, during the time Father Maurer was the pastor. The first officers were: President Jacob Harmacek; Vice President, Louis Vogt; Recording Secretary, John A. Pfeffer; Financial Secretary, Joseph Schuler.

In 1940 the Laymen's Retreat League was established through the efforts of C. W. Gruninger, Alfred Descher, Julius Kuehner and John Janson, Jr. During the Centennial year of the parish in 1946 the officers were: Alfred Descher, President; C. W. Gruninger, Vice President and Julius Kuehner, Secretary.

St. Vincent De Paul Society was founded in 1933 by Father Wiemer.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality was in existence in the year 1946 with Miss Mary Reis, President; Miss Alma Faust, Treasurer and Miss Mae Juengling, Secretary.

In 1946 the officers of a Young Men's Sodality were John McDiermon, President and Frank Leingang, Secretary-Treasurer.

During this, the Centennial year of our City, the following societies are active in the parish with the officers as listed: Altar Society: Mrs. Frank Haberl, President; Mrs. Charles Menner, Vice President; Mrs. Leo Herrmann, Secretary; Mrs. Clarence Janson, Treasurer.

Mothers and Friends Club: Mrs. Norman Mueller, President; Mrs. Anthony Range, Secretary.

Catholic Knights and Ladies of Illinois: Frank Knippler, President; William Faust, Secretary.

St. Vincent De Paul Society: Elmer Janson, President; Paul Reyling, Secretary-Treasurer.

Catholic Youth Organization: William Janson, President; Mary Kathryn Conrad, Secretary.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine: Rev. Vito Lopardo, Director; Chas. W. Gruninger, President; Calvin Fries, Vice President; Rita Leingang, Secretary; Arlou Koch, Treasurer.

The men of the parish are affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, Waterloo Council 1334; and a number of the ladies are affiliated with the Daughters of Isabella.

A Retreat movement for men in the parish, is under the leadership of Leo Weilbacher, Sr.; the ladies under the leadership of Mrs. Charles W. Gruninger.

Rev. Elmer Holtgrave has been working untiringly, developing a long range program of improvements for the parish to meet the tremendous growth which seems to be in sight. The immediate large scale project that is at hand is the construction of a new rectory, the plans for which have been completed. This project should get under way in the spring of this year 1959. Father Holtgrave is always interested and concerned in seeing that the parish will meet the problems that come with an ever-growing community. At this time there are approximately 450 families in the parish.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS

In January of 1957, the First Baptist Church of Dupo elected a Missions Committee composed of three members. They were Russell Barnett, Calvin Pickering and Fred Schumaker. Their purpose was to establish a new church in Columbia.

A visitation program was set up to visit and enlist the known prospects at that time. An effort was also put forth to find others who would be interested in this great work.

In spite of the fact that there were few interested persons, the Baptist Mission was established under the supervision of the Mother Church of Dupo, Illinois. The work was begun in co-operation with the Superintendent of Missions of the E. St. Louis Baptist Association, Rev. Fred Propst.

On February 24, 1957 the first service was held in the Louis Ritter building at 121 South Main Street (formerly Daab Confectionery). This was the first home of the Baptist Mission and later the First Baptist Church. The work continued here for two years.

Rev. W. W. Dishongh, pastor of the Mother Church, conducted the first service. Those present were Mrs. Paul Koblitz and daughter, Mrs. Chas. Fitts, Mrs. Vernie Hal-leran and son, Mrs. Ann Volk and two daughters and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Clark and daughter, Jewell.

Rev. Propst, Superintendent of Missions, conducted the services through April, during which time the first two-week revival was held. Members for a new church were enlisted.

On Sunday before Easter Sunday, 1957, Rev. Doyle

Keller of Dupo, Illinois came to conduct the services at the Mission. At the request of the Mission congregation, the Mother Church called Rev. Keller to be Mission Pastor.

After sufficient growth, on July 20, 1958, Constitution services were held. The mission became the First Baptist Church of Columbia with forty charter members.

In January 1959 the First Baptist Church purchased the Dr. Dundon property at 626 West Bottom Avenue and moved to the new church home February 18, 1959. The pastor also moved upon the field.

The present church officers are Rev. Doyle Keller, Pastor; Shirley Morrow, Clerk; Wm. C. Stonecipher, Treasurer; Milo Newton, Wm. C. Stonecipher and George Womble, Trustees; Ernest Clark, Sunday School Superintendent; Wm. C. Stonecipher, Training Union Director; and Betty Cook, president of the Women's Missionary Union.

A brief doctrinal statement of the Church is as follows: 1. Jesus Christ established her. 2. She is made up of baptized believers. 3. Her purpose is to take the gospel into all the world. 4. Her government is democratic. 5. She is located locally with no authority outside the local church. 6. Her finance is wholly of the tithe and offerings. 7. She accepts the Bible as the whole inspired word of God. 8. She has always strived for separation of church and state. St. John 7:16 Jesus said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me."

The First Baptist Church of Columbia is one of 30,000 other Baptist Churches of like faith and order affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rev. Doyle Keller is the pastor of the church.



"'Bilder Joe' sold rosaries and holy pictures and herbs."



Mrs. Theodore Stritter, nee Breidecker, wife of a Columbia baker.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF OLD COLUMBIA

Grocery Stores: J. B. Smith and Stewart; Martin Schuler; Reid and Schuler; John A. Reid; Reid and Arnin; Joseph Arnin. Charles Breidecker, Scipio Beaird, Hy. Voges, Jacob Weinell and John H. Wilson, Eichmuellers, Edward Victor Heiligstedt, Wm. Allen, Henry Schaefer, Fred Meyer, Meyer Bros., Wm. Vogt, John Pfeffer, Columbia Mercantile Co., Weibacher's, John Weissler, J. P. Ebel, Joseph Schuler, Theodore Stritter, Henry Siemens, William Dieterle and Chas. Breidecker.

Boarding Houses and Hotels: David Robinson 1825, Franklin Inn 1828, Albert Lepp, Jacob Boehne, John Eichmueller, Buck Tavern, Robert Coleman, Ernst Grosse, Charles Juengling, A. F. Weinell, Fred Juengling, Jr. and Sr., Angerer Hotel, Breidecker Hotel, Arlington Hotel, Henckler's Hotel, Jacob Weinell.

Blacksmith Shops: Joshua Parker, first one; Edward Heiligstedt, Jos. Rauch, Sr., Jos. Wuest, Frank Riebeling, Daniel Krauss, Jacob Lotz, Theodore and John Schaefer, Christian Dahmer, Schmidt and Rauch, Peter Miller, Jacob Schmidt.

Wagon Makers: Fred Knieste, Frank Riebeling, John C. Schmidt, H. W. Schmidt, Henry Riebeling, George Schmidt, Jacob Schaffenberger.

Insurance: Fred G. Rapp, E. T. Weible, John A. Pfeffer, Jas. Warnock.

Carpenters: Fred Koch, Jos. Brand, Hy. Beckmann, Charles Landgraf.

Lumber Yards: Ernst Grosse and A. F. Weinell.

Harness Makers: Frank Fahney, John Kolb, William Kremmel.

Brick Yards: William Dankenbring, Henry Heullinghorst, George Hengle, Henckler's.

Druggists: Louis Seyffardt, A. Bietlingmeier, Herman Rose, Wm. Rose, Sr., Schaufert.

Doctors: Wm. Goforth (Old Pills), Wm. Grippenberg, James Nowlin, M. G. Nixon, William Rose, Sr. and Junior, S. Kohlenbach, Dr. Gillen, Dr. Hansing, T. Hall, Zoda Lumley, Louis Sondel, Hammond Shoemaker, John Pflueger, Ulmauf.

Veterinarians: John McKee, W. Wooters, Richard Grossman.

Tailors: Christian Beck, Henry Beck, and Ferdinand and William Haberlah.

Carpet Weavers: Eliza Wall and Anna Haller

Hardware: Christian Breidecker, Louis Kuehner, Philip Wilde, Ernst Weinell, Wm. Vogt.

Dressmakers and Milliners: Mrs. Sophia Schneider, Mrs. Ellen Smith, Miss Mary Oerter, Miss Minnie Timmerman, Miss Mattie Lane, Mrs. Dora Colburn, Mrs. E. L. Bersche, Mrs. Bertha Gordon, Mrs. Roeveer, Mrs. Gebhardt, men's shirts and pants.

Cigarmakers: Gus Pentzler, Henry Kunz, Sr., Henry Rueck, William Henfling, Wm. Schaefer, Herman Miller, Wm. Williams.

Livery Stables: Aug. F. Weinell and James Warnock.

Furniture and Coffins: Fred Litzenberger, Chas. Schneider, E. J. Schneider, George and Gus Grob.

Saloons: Franklin Inn, Buck Tavern, Ernst Grosse, Aug. F. Weinell, Chas. Juengling, Jos. Brand, Conrad Wolf, Albert Lepp, Kastner, John B. Schmidt, Henry Reichenbach, Sr. and Jr., Wm. Goeckeler, Hy. Scheuermann, Jos. Rauch, Gus Tunze, Herman Meyer, Louis Tunze, Jacob Weinell, Fred Henckler, John Petri, Elmer Oerter, Henry Siemens, Jacob Vahle, P. C. Schneider, and Emil Fleig.

Breweries: John Gundlach, Edward Gundlach, John Schmidt.

Bakeries: Kupferschmidt, Stamm, Brucker and G. C. Goeckeler.

Cooper shops: Columbia Star Mill, Gardner Mills afterwards Koenigsmark and Afflick and Phelps also E. F. Schoening; Christian Volkert.

Butcher Shops: Fred Illngner, Joe Vahle, Gustav Rohm and Son, Jacob and Louis Habermehl, Wm. Gruninger, Pretzlic Bros. Joseph Volkert, Sr., James Stephan, Jacob Ferkel, W. H. Schumacher, Jacob Stock.

Traders: Peter Reis, Gus Gnau, James Warnock, Jacob Ferkel, Franks Samenfinck, Christian Niemeier, Gov't. Horse and Mule Buyer during Civil War.

Candy store and Confectionery and Ice Cream Stores: Wm. Allen, Mrs. Sophie Schneider, she also served a piece of delicious cake with the ice cream free; Mrs. Emma Fiege, Weibacher's, Stark's.

Plasterers: Fred Keil.

Painters: Gus and Andy Friedrich, Ebel and Schmidt, Stonewall Jackson.

Shoemakers: Frederick Herold, Edward Fiege, Adolph Drachenberg, Joe Huber, Heinrig Reichenbach.

Barbers: George and Ferd Fiege, Wm. Roessler, Julius Lotz (all babies got their first haircut free, and every child loved Barber Lotz), Louis Ritter Senior and Junior, Charles Reis.

Farm Machinery: Peter Miller, Ernst Weinell, Wm. Vogt, Chris Breidecker.

Jewelry: Seibeck and E. L. Bersche.

Mills: Flour: Columbia Star and Gardner and Grist Mill Robert Coleman.

Saw Mill—J. Weisenborn, run with two white oxen for power.

Well Digger: Mr. Riebeling.

Job Printing Office: Charles Breidecker.

Photographers: E. T. Weible and Wm. A. Hills.

Herb and Seed Store: Joe Wise, sold Herbs to make "Hamburger Brust Tea" which was a cure-all especially good for colds; also sold holy pictures, rosaries, crucifixes, books. Wore his hair long. He had a saintly face.

Towncrier: Fred Henckler.



# DIVISIONS OF COLUMBIA IN USE BY OLD-TIME COLUMBIANS

Columbia, like Gaul of the Latin text books, was divided (not in three, however) but in five parts: Downtown, the north part of town near Gundlach's was St. Paul; Gaenze Fertil, or Goose Quarter, was in the neighborhood of Riebeling street to the old Wardeman cemetery; so named because many families kept geese; Rosenthal, or the Valley of the Roses, which extended from the Julian Burks home on route 3 down into the valley; the name being self-explanatory; and Shake-rack (pronounced Sheckereck) which is the part of Columbia in the neighborhood of Ben Sunderman's garage and thereabouts. In the minutes of the village council it is spelled "Shake Rag". This district was probably so named from a poem written by George Fiege and his "Shake-rack" boys, set to music and played by the Shake-Rack band. It was written because a couple in this neighborhood refused to open the door for the serenaders when they came to charivari (shivari) the couple. The poem follows:

## The Green-horn's Party

Tune — Ha, ha, ha I tell you  
The Shake-rack boys are full of fun  
And love to dance and sing  
They also organized a band  
Some good serenades to bring.  
Chorus Ha, ha, ha, I tell you  
ho ho ho I say,  
Keep your eyes on the Shake-rack band  
When they commence to play.

A green-horn's daughter had found out  
Our little band could play  
And asked their ma and pa about  
To invite us all some day  
The green-horns gave a party  
I tell you it was grand  
We never met such people yet  
With our little Shake-rack band,

## Chorus

Inside were Mike and Lizzie  
Little Mag and Leopold  
They were having a jolly time  
While we were in the cold.  
We then played Annie Rooney  
To give a nice serenade  
But they closed the doors and windows  
And left us in the shade.

## Chorus

Censored the next verse  
We left the place right quietly  
You ought to see them glance  
We went in front of a neighbor's house,  
And there we had a dance  
We boys all like a party  
But I'll tell you very plain  
That you must be a dandy  
If you see us there again.

## Chorus

Uptown Main street was called by the downtowners "Schlechte Fertil" or wicked quarter, and Uptown retaliated by saying Downtowners were rascals and Uptowners angels.

These statements will not be found in any history, only from the tales of the old timers and the secret of who said what will never be divulged by the writer.

# TOWN TRUSTEES 1859-1903

Trustees of the Town of Columbia from 1859 until it became a Village by election, October 3, 1903—44 years a town.

Lafayette Warnock: 1859-61 and 1866-67; John Gundlach, 1859-61 and 1863-67; John Ferkel, 1859-60 and 1861-62; John Jost, 1859-61; Jacob Beck, 1860-66 and 1868-69; Ernst Grosse, 1861-62 and 1869-70; Leonard Bietlingmeier, 1861-62; Christian Niemeier, 1862-64 and 1869-70; Jacob Lotz, 1862-63 and 1870-76 and 1882-85; John Weisenborn, 1862-64; Christian Breidecker, 1863-71; Peter Miller, 1864-65, 1895-97; John Pfeffer, 1865-66 and 1875-77 and 1878-79 and 1880-81 and 1886-87 and 1895-96; George Hengle, 1865-66; Thomas Koenigsmark, 1866-69 and 1871-72 and 1873-75; H. Voges, 1867-71 and 1876-80; Henry Riebeling, 1867-68; Theodore Repp, 1869-70; H. F. Henckel, 1869-70; Henry Rueck, 1870-71 and 1894-96; John Kastner, 1870-71; Frederick Koch, 1871-73; William Schaefer, 1872-73; Henry Huch, 1872-73; John McKee, 1873-74; John Beck, 1876-77; John Angerer, 1875-76; Peter Reis, 1879-80; George Divers, 1871-72 and 1873-74 and 1880-82; Joseph Rauch, 1879-80 and 1881-85 and 1888-90 and 1891-94; Joseph Schuler, 1880-85; Joseph Stephan, 1882-85 and 1888-91; Edward Heiligstedt, 1881-82; Anton Vogt, 1888-90; Henry Reichenbach, 1874-79 and 1885-86; Chas. Riebeling, 1877-81; John B. Schmidt, 1885-86 and 1887-89; Jacob Habermehl, 1885-88 and 1889-91 and 1892-93; Stephen Frickman, 1885-88; Gustav Rohm, 1899-1901 and 1903-04; Julius Breidecker, 1886-92; Charles Lotz, 1892-94 and 1896-1904; John C. Schmidt, 1897-1904; Albert Lepp, 1895-1901 and 1901-1904; Jacob Harmacek, 1899-91 and 1894-95; Henry C. Schneider, 1890-92; Henry J. Kunz, Sr., 1891-92 and 1896-97; Charles Pepperni, 1891-93; Gustav Tunze, 1903-04; E. L. Rauch, 1903-1904; Joseph M. Arnin, 1892-94 and 1895-98; Joseph Brand, 1893-95; Charles Reis, 1897-99; Edward L. Bersche, 1898-99; Philip Wilde, 1899-1903 and Theodore L. Schaefer, 1901-03.

At a General Election held October 3, 1903, the Municipal Government was changed from Town to Village, under the General Laws of the State of Illinois, the first Officers for the Village of Columbia, elected April 19, 1904, were: President, Henry N. Kunz, Trustees, Albert Lepp, Gustav Tunze, Edmund L. Rauch, George Roessler, William Haberlah; Clerk, Rudolph P. Brielge, Treasurer, George B. Schoening, Constable, John B. Schmidt.

Village Trustees: William Haberlah, 1904-16; Albert Lepp, 1904-10; Charles Lotz, 1904-15; E. L. Rauch, 1904-27; George Roessler, 1904-07 and 1913-15 and 1917-21; Gustav Tunze, 1904-15 and 1921-24; Louis Tunze, 1907-13; Jacob Brand, 1910-16; E. H. Gundlach, 1915-17; Henry Kraus, 1915-17; Otto H. Vogt, 1915-17; J. C. Friedrich, 1916-18; George Grob, 1916-18; Fred Juengling, 1917-19; Andrew Plutowsky, 1917-20; Daniel Daab, 1918-27; Theodore Ludwig, 1918-20; Herman Haller, 1919-25; E. S. Rose, 1919-21; Joseph J. Volkert, 1920-27; J. L. Schmidt, 1921-25; Louis Landgraf, 1925-27; Wm. Roessler, 1925-27; Wm. Wilde, 1925-27; Gus Schuler, 1924-25.

On March 22, 1927 by a vote of 159 for and 50 against the municipal government was changed from Village to City, and the following elected first officers of the City of Columbia: Mayor, Fred G. Rapp; Clerk, Arthur A. Lepp, Treasurer, Julius F. Lotz; Police Magistrate, Edwin C. Kueffner; Attorney, A. C. Bollinger; Marshal, C. L. Kern; Fire Chief, Gus C. Goeckeler, Jr. 24 years a village.

Following are the Aldermen who served from 1927 to 1959: Daniel Daab, 1927-28; Thomas C. Schmidt, 1927-31; Joseph J. Volkert, Sr., 1927-30; Herman Haller, 1927-31; E. L. Rauch, 1927-33; Arthur Rueck, 1927-29; Fred B. Mueller, 1928-31; Walter F. Giffhorn, 1929-36; Albert C. Metter,

1930-33; Fred Heise, 1931-34; Albert Haller, 1931-34; Carl Reis, 1932-36; Gus. D. Schroeder, 1932-37; Walter F. Koch, 1933-34; Michael Steffenaue, 1934-59; Philip Ludwig, 1933-59; Herman J. Friedrich, 1934-38; Wm. Juengling, 1937-42; Raymond Friedrich, 1937-41; Anton Wierschem, 1937-44; Ferdinand Rohm, 1939-41; William Landgraf, 1941-47 and 1957-59, re-elected 1959; Elmer Janson, 1941-54; George Van Luik, 1943-59; re-elected 1959; Wm. Schueler, 1945-53; Wilbert Kremmel, 1949-59; Arthur Beckmann, 1953-59; Alfred Descher, 1955-56. Warren Bergmann was elected as alderman in the 3d ward, replacing Philip J. Ludwig who did not run for office this year. 32 years a City.

#### DATA FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES

The U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C. gives the following information on the census: "We find Columbia first in the 1850 Census." Here are the figures for each census from 1850 through 1950: 1850, Columbia, Illinois population, 378; 1860, 1,080; 1870, 1,246; 1880, 1,308; 1890, 1,267; 1900, 1,197; 1910, 2,076; 1920, 1,592; 1930, 1,791; 1940, 1,871; 1950, 2,179.

Unofficial 1959 census of Columbia School Unit No. 4, approximately 4,000, of which 2600 reside within the city limits of Columbia.

#### POST OFFICES

Records of the Post Office Department in Washington, D. C. show that a post office was established at Columbia, Illinois on August 10, 1822. Names of postmasters and dates of their appointment were: William G. Goforth, December 10, 1822; Thomas H. Finley (declined) August 9, 1828; Robert Coleman, November 21, 1828; Stephen Gardner, February 6, 1836; Charles Henckler, August 23, 1845; Jacob Stoutzenberg, August 16, 1851; Christian Breidecker, June 17, 1854; Louis E. Seyffardt, July 8, 1884; Lafayette Warnock, July 22, 1885; George W. Johnson, April 8, 1889; Heinrig Reichenbach, Dec. 14, 1892; Madison G. Nixon June 23, 1893; Joseph M. Armin, June 28, 1897; Fred H. Henckler, March 10, 1914; Arthur G. Armin, February 24, 1923; Otto H. Vogt, January 24, 1933; Charles J. Schneider, May 31, 1933; Gustav H. Boemer, January 31, 1942; Robert P. Cash, September 15, 1951 (still serving in 1959).

#### RURAL CARRIERS

Two rural carriers service the rural community from the Columbia Post Office. Following are the records obtained from the Post Office Department Chicago Regional Office, Main Post Office Building: Route 1, established 2-2-03 to 12-31-17 William Gilmore regular rural carrier; 1-2-18 to 4-30-18 Adolph Grosse temporary; 5-1-18 to 2-23-19, Oliver Leister, temporary; 2-24-19 to 12-31-19, George Schlemmer; regular; 1-1-20 to 5-9-20 Philip Stumpf, temporary; 5-10-20 to 12-31-52, Otto D. Schneider, regular; 1-1-53 to 3-29-53, Edward J. Wilde temporary; 3-30-53 to date, George A. Wilde regular.

Route 2, established 4-1-04 to 12-15-04, Louis Joseph Reis, temporary; 12-16-04 to 11-30-06, Julius Schneider, regular; 12-1-06 to 3-31-18 Chas. Lieser, regular; 4-1-18 to 2-23-19 Richard Harris, temporary; 2-24-19 to 3-20-20, Richard Harris, regular; 3-21-20 to 5-9-20, Herman F. Zoeller, temporary; 5-10-20 to date Herman F. Zoeller, regular.

Advanced to third class January 1, 1910; advanced to second class, July 1, 1943. Village delivery service started 11-1-28; City delivery service started 7-17-50; Star route truck service started 5-1-52; Highway Post Office bus service started 1-5-53; Last service from trains, 5-31-56.

#### THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME COLUMBIA

The origin of the name "Columbia" has been the subject of much discussion and conjecture among Columbian's wondering why it was so named. To clarify the discussion the historian wrote to Columbia University in the city of New York, asking the president of the University why the University was so named. The president referred the request to M. Halsey Thomas, curator of Columbiana, of Low Memorial Library, and he forwarded the following explanation:

"The name Columbia came into popularity at the close of the American Revolution. There seemed to be a feeling that Columbus, the discoverer of America, should be memorialized instead of Amerigo Vespucci, who had less reason to have his name attached to this hemisphere."

The name, however, was used as early as 1697 by Chief Justice Samuel Sewall of Massachusetts in a book he published that year. He spelled it Columbina, but the idea was the same.

The first time the name appeared in legislation was the legislative act of the State of New York giving the name of Columbia to this institution, 1 May 1784. Two years later (4 April 1786) a new county was set off from Albany county and established with the name of Columbia county."

Pursuing the subject further, the curator of Columbiana enclosed a copy of a clipping from Columbia University's undergraduate daily paper the "Columbia Spectator" of April 30, 1946.

"Columbia's Name Derived from Revolution War Song in 1784."

"While delving through the archives of the Columbiana collection in the basement of Low, we found a Columbia University Bulletin dated December 1896 in which an article "The Origin of Columbia", appeared.

During the Revolution, Rev. Timothy Dwight, a chaplain in the American Army, composed a song entitled "Columbia, Columbia to Glory Arise."

A few years after the revolution, in 1784, the legislature of the University was looking for a new name for the college that would present a striking contrast to the original name "King's College." In the use of "Columbia" Dr. Dwight had idealized the new republic. The word had become significant of liberty and patriotism—representing the new born hopes and aspirations of the American people and nation. A verse in the song which perhaps prompted the decision is the following:

"Columbia, Columbia to glory arise,  
The Queen of the world and child of the skies."

Columbia, then, became a popular name. By a Congressional Act in 1790, in 1791 the District of Columbia was established. The Columbia River discovered in 1792 by Captain Robert Gray was so named for his ship. That river became the focus of American settlement that created Oregon.

Since the early settlers of Columbia had fought in the Revolution, it is possible they had heard the song, sung it and decided it was a patriotic and appropriate name for the town they founded, our own fair Columbia.



AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL HOME

#### HISTORY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 581

The following history of Columbia Post No. 581 was written by C. F. Weilbacher, then Post Historian, for a booklet entitled "A Brief History of Monroe County in the Great World War", and distributed with the compliments of the American Legion Post No. 581, Columbia.

The history follows: "Columbia Post No. 581, American Legion was organized on March 23d, 1920. The organization work was conducted by Joseph McGlynn of E. St. Louis, district organizer. The first meeting, held at Post Headquarters, Turner Hall, was a decided success, twenty-four charter members being enrolled.

The following officers were elected at the first meeting: Commander, R. C. Kunz; Vice Commander, Ira J. Mund; Adjutant, W. F. Schuck; Finance Officer, C. W. Breidecker; Chaplain, Henry Haberlah; Historian, C. F. Weilbacher; Service Officer, A. G. Klein; Employment Officer, C. L. Volkert; Athletic Officer, E. Parrott; Bugler, A. C. Metter and Sergeant-at-arms, G. Stemler. In 1921 the same officers were re-elected.

During the first year there were 56 members enrolled, bringing the total membership to 80.

The Charter members of the American Legion were: R. C. Kunz, Henry Haberlah, A. G. Klein, Albert Hofstetter, Alpha C. Smith, Walter F. Schuck, Henry Thiele, Ira F. Mund, Mike Klohr, C. W. Breidecker, George Kuterer, John W. Thomas, Henry D. Mehrtens, Earl G. Parrott, Charles Steinsieck, Frank D. Buncher, August Welsch, Leo F. Kipping, Herman F. Faake and Louis Habermehl."

Mr. Weilbacher, in commenting on the war efforts of Columbians says: "Columbia's success in every war activity was due to her splendid community spirit, the spirit that is the pride and design of Southern Illinois.

Both individually and as a whole Columbia strove to "carry on" and succeeded as she always does when she so desires. Liberty Loans were all over-subscribed

as were all the drives, and Columbia was generally the first precinct to go "Over the Top".

Monroe County's Red Cross had its inception in Columbia immediately after the declaration of war, enrolling members and contributions months before Illinois was distracted.

Lodges, clubs, churches and individuals worked as a harmonious whole for humanity's sake that Columbia's sons and daughters who served the colors and who were absent in the flesh, but present in the spirit, would remain away for as brief a time as possible.

Some of the organizations which worked at home and in the camps were: Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, the Council of Defense, headed by Louis Dehn and Mrs. Wm. Hills, investigated all claims; the Liberty Loan organization headed by H. N. Kunz; Publicity, Ernst A. Weinel and George W. Smith; Food Administration; fuel administration headed by Emil Brucker; the War Chest, the Y. M. C. A. and the Salvation Army all with local directors."

Immediately upon the return of World War I Veterans the post began the fitting celebration of Armistice Day and Memorial Day. The first Memorial Day after some had returned was in 1919. There were 125 veterans in the parade that day, school children, organizations, the officials of the city and two bands. There were aching hearts for those who did not return.

In 1922 a committee was appointed to raise funds for a Memorial to our soldier dead in all wars. It is a bronze statue, "The Spirit of the American Doughboy." The inscription on the monument reads: "Columbia American Legion Post No. 581 1775-1918, Memorial in honor of our sons and daughters who served their nation in Freedom's cause and in memory of those of our number who gave that last full measure of devotion in the Six Great Wars: Revolutionary War, 1775-1781; War of 1812-14; Mexican War, 1846-47; the Civil War, 1861-65; Spanish-American

War, 1898; The Great World War, 1917-1918. Columbia American Legion Post No. 581. Greater Love Hath No Man Than This. By the Community of Columbia, Ill.

Money was raised for the monument by the sale of tickets which enabled purchasers to designate where the Memorial would be placed. The vote showed that the place would be at Main and Legion Avenue. Accordingly it was placed there and impressive ceremonies were conducted on May 30, 1924 when it was dedicated. The American Legion Auxiliary had a flag pole erected there, and a flag given by the Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary were also dedicated on this day.

The Post, with Albert C. Metter as commander, sponsored the first Community Christmas celebration early in its history. C. L. Volkert and Robert C. Kunz appeared before the Columbia Commercial Club and asked for their cooperation. This was forthcoming, and with the additional help of the merchants in Columbia, candy and peanuts and oranges for Santa's visit miraculously appeared. Santa in person, appeared at the Doughboy monument and gave young Columbians a community Christmas gift. Carols were sung by the assemblage, and all Columbia joined in the celebration. This custom has continued to this day, although the location has been changed to the Municipal Building.

Another event sponsored by the Legion was the Fourth of July picnic and dance, with fireworks over the pond, then where the tennis court now is situated. Yet another was the annual Turkey Day, which is still held.

In January of 1926 Columbia Post was appointed trustee of the Palmier cemetery. This cemetery is one of the oldest in the county, having been established in 1783. Veterans as far back as the Revolutionary War are buried there. It was so neglected that instead of using mowers, Post members came to work with axes to cut down the trees that all but hid the monuments. The Post also took charge of the City cemetery for several years.

As time passed the organization felt the need of a Post home of their own and in 1934 the committee was appointed to find a site. The City of Columbia agreed to have the building placed on city property and this eliminated purchasing a lot. It also assured adequate grounds, since it is in the municipal recreational area at the corner of Metter street and Legion avenue. In July of 1940 the dream of the American Legion — a Post home — became a reality with the letting of the contract.

The home is a modern frame structure with ample space for meetings, entertainment, and Post activities on the first floor and a large basement where kitchen and dining facilities are provided. It is tastily furnished throughout. The Legion Auxiliary donated the furnishings. The home was dedicated on December 1, 1940.

Shortly thereafter when our country was plunged into World War II the Post was asked to help with Civilian Defense. They responded to a man and under Civilian Defense Director C. L. Volkert, a Past Commander of the Post, they used their war-acquired knowledge so well that Columbia was the envy of other cities for their Defense work. They responded to calls for help in other communities, and were of great help in 1943 when Dupu was evacuated, and flood refugees in inundated areas were quartered in the City Hall. Federal troops came to help hold the levees along the Mississippi and the Legion helped there too. The Post helped with all wartime drives and activities to help the boys in the service of their country.

In May of 1945 VE (Victory in Europe) Day was celebrated and in August VJ (Victory in Japan) Day—and World War II was over. The Post welcomed World War II veterans to the American Legion and later the veterans of the Korean conflict. After a period of adjustment, the veterans of all three wars emerged as a strong and vital force in the community.

The Legion stands by in emergencies of all kinds, and is now asked to "Stand By" when tornado warnings are broadcast. A Ground and Air Observer Corps was organized and the Legion served for several years in conjunction with the U. S. Air Force.

A Columbia Legion Post No. 581 Drill team was organized with squad Commander Maurice Schneider the leader. This is a well-disciplined drill team, snappily dressed, and has placed high at Veterans Day at the Springfield State Fair in competition with drill teams all over Illinois.

The Legion backs all good measures for the advancement of Columbia. They have annual picnics and parades and other entertainments and use proceeds to develop their new Columbia American Legion Memorial Park, the site being purchased from Elmer Oerter for \$22,000. This park was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1958. They have obligated themselves for \$28,506 so far.

The American Legion sponsored the Boy Scout Troop early in the 1920's and from 1948 to 1958 they have continuously been their sponsoring organization. They are Big Brothers to Columbia lads in their formative years.

This park was purchased so that Columbia youth could have a well-equipped recreation center where they could gather and take part in competitive sports under supervision. It met with instant appeal and on summer nights and in vacation time the park is alive with young people happily engaged in Khoury League baseball. There are fourteen teams, and four diamonds, and most of the time games are in progress on all the diamonds. In fact, there were seventy softball games in 1958. One of the diamonds is equipped with lights, courtesy of the Columbia Rotary Club.

This project, and others which the Legion has sponsored proves that Legionnaires live up to their solemn American Legion obligation "To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state and nation" and to "foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism."

What better way than to serve the youth of Columbia!

#### AMERICAN LEGION PAST COMMANDERS

Robert C. Kunz, 1920-22; A. C. Metter, 1922-23; C. L. Volkert, 1923-24; A. C. Metter, 1924-26; C. F. Weibacher, 1926-28; A. G. Klein, 1928-29; Otto D. Schneider, 1929-31; Louis Munding, 1931-33; C. L. Volkert, 1933-35; H. F. Taake, 1935-37; E. R. Volkert, 1937-39; A. J. Kuehner, 1939-41; C. W. Hoffmann, 1941-43; Henry Haberlah, 1943-44; C. A. Brucker, 1944-46; Leo A. Weibacher, 1946-47; P. A. Ludwig, 1947-49; Maurice Schneider, 1949-50; Louis Schiemer, 1950-51; Harold S. Mueller, 1951-52; George A. Wilde, 1952-54; Virgil J. Crook, 1954-55; Norman Wessel, 1955-56; Marvin Greeting, 1956-57; Robert Schiemer, 1957-58; Kenneth G. Haller, 1958-59.

The present officers (1959) are as follows: Commander, Kenneth G. Haller; Sr. Vice Commander, Warren Bergmann; Jr. Vice Commander, Raymond Schrader; Adjutant, Millard Munding; Finance Officer, Norman Wessel; Chaplain, Harvey Buettner; Sgt. at Arms, Arnold Rudolph; Historian, Harold Mueller; Grave Registrar, Henry Thiele; Service Officer, Leo Weibacher; Assistant Service Officer, George Wilde; Executive Board, Elmer Wilde, George Luhr, Robert Schiemer, Clarence Mueller, Erwin Stumpf, Howard Schrader, Leland Stechmesser.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 581

In May of 1922, a committee consisting of Charles Hollingsworth, C. W. Breidecker, Mrs. Bertha Hollingsworth and Miss Ida Schneider met to consider organizing an American Legion Auxiliary. They agreed that an Auxiliary was needed and another meeting was called, with Mrs. Bertha Rose Hollingsworth acting as chairman. A charter was applied for and it was issued May 13, 1922 to the Columbia American Legion Auxiliary Unit 581. Twenty-six members were enrolled. The following officers were elected: President, Phena Dehn; Vice President, Ida Schneider; Secretary, Florence Kunz; Treasurer, Dorothy Dehn; Historian, Louise Schneider; Chaplain, Ida H. Schneider.

Meetings were scheduled at the Turner Hall every second Tuesday in the month at the same time of the meeting of the American Legion.

Immediately the auxiliary began its role as a medium of help, not only for the Legion, but for the entire community as well, as witnessed by their work taken from their records: In 1923 purchased a flag—began the sale of poppies made by disabled veterans, continued to today; sent two delegates to the state convention at Danville; a card party to raise money for the Legion's project, the Doughboy monument. They also paid for the flag pole erected near the monument, a bronze tablet for the monument and gave \$100 to put effective lighting in the monument area; help every year to decorate the graves of departed soldiers.

They donated money to the Evangelical, Lutheran and Catholic Churches. In 1928 they invested \$5.00 a month in the Columbia Building and Loan Association; started making tray favors for hospitalized veterans, which they still do. They donated to many forms of child welfare; tornado relief; they collected \$150 for flood sufferers and sent a half carload of clothing to them; gave Christmas baskets to Columbia's needy; gave 4th of July suppers in conjunction with Sons of Veterans Auxiliary.

In 1932 they donated \$20 to the Columbia Unemployment Relief Fund; members of the auxiliary sewed clothes for needy families and the unemployed; farm members brought in bushels of potatoes for gifts to needy families; the Auxiliary cut 150 pounds of sauer kraut, packed it in one-half gallon jars and donated it to the Columbia Relief Headquarters; in 1935 they brought sixty-seven baskets of food to needy people and pretty Christmas presents for the children; assisted with the Community Christmas celebration at the Doughboy monument and later at the City Hall; served lunch on Turkey Day.

In 1937 they donated to the Salvation Army, beloved of all service organizations, sent 472 cans of vegetables, 57 boxes of clothing and 4 boxes of underwear to the Herrin, Illinois flood sufferers. They contributed to the Crippled Children's drive, to the Scout Hut and the Veterans' Gift Fund.

In 1939 donations went to the Education Fund, Auxiliary Loan Fund, cigarette and insulin fund, Red Cross, Easter Seals, Cancer Drive, March of Dimes and Leonard Wood Memorial. They gave to the High school band, gave \$1000 to the Legion, gave for uniforms for the Legion Firing Squad. They also gave a hospital bed for a memorial to veterans who died in the service.

In 1940 when the Legion Hut was dedicated, they helped with open house. Every May they take the food and entertain the veterans at the Illinois State Hospital at Alton. In 1947 they celebrated the 25th anniversary of their founding, and on March 30 this year (1959) they gave a 40th anniversary party for the Legion. In 1949 they gave \$200 to the Legion Drill Team; they sell Veterans'

Crafts all during the year; send a high school junior to Girls' State at MacMurray College at Jacksonville, Illinois every year.

These are just a few of the activities of the auxiliary. Space forbids telling of more.

Following is a list of Committee Chairmen for 1958-59: Americanism, Alma Rudolph; Auxiliary Loan Fund for Education of War Orphans, Helen Wilde; Community Service, June Weisenborn; Child Welfare, Lydia Immenga; Civil Defense, Mary Challacombe; Coupon, Ida Harres; Illinois Girls' State, Anna Lefholz; Gold Star, Alma Horcher; Membership, Amalia Bolle; Member of Liaison, Florence Hoock; National Security, Alma Kremmel; Legislative, Anna Lefholz; Pan-American, Tillie Harres; Poppy, Dolores Bergmann; Tillie Bergmann and June Weisenborn; Music, Myrtle Schneider and Irene Haberl; Past Presidents Parley, Ida Harres; Publicity, Esther Stumpf; Rehabilitation and Veterans' Crafts, Margaret Mueller; Flavor, Tillie Bergmann; Tray Favors, Frieda Thiele; Entertainment, Virginia Klein, Mildred Haller and Alma Kremmel; Finance, Myrtle Schneider, Margaret Mueller and Mary Ann Schmidt; Junior Activity, Amalia Bolle and Lydia Immenga; Visiting, Tillie Bergmann; Ways and Means, Anna Lefholz, Irene Haberl and June Weisenborn; Revisions, Lydia Immenga, Amalia Bolle and Margaret Mueller.

The Auxiliary has grown from twenty-six members in 1922 to one hundred thirty-nine in 1959. Auxiliary members have held offices in the St. Clair-Monroe County Council, the 22d District, and at present Mrs. Amalia Bolle is a member of the Department of Illinois on the Civil Defense committee of the Fifth Division, and the 22d District Director.

Gold Star Mothers are: Amanda Mosbacher, Elizabeth Rehg, Alma Roever, Elizabeth Weinel, Mrs. William Egger, Flora Pieper and Lillie Payne.

## JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Junior Auxiliary of the American Legion was organized Nov. 10, 1956 with nine charter members. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Ruth Bolle; vice chairman, Marlene Wilde; Secretary, Linda Custer; Treasurer, Jo Ann Wilde; Chaplain, Betty Lindhorst; Historian, Sandra Lindhorst; Sergeant-at-arms, Karon Wilde. The Junior advisor was Mrs. Lydia Immenga.

The Juniors make thirty tray favors every month which are sent to the Veterans' Hospital at Galesburg, Illinois; donate to a rehabilitation program of the department; enter the Poppy Poster contest; sing carols at the Nursing Home at Waterloo; and send gifts to the boys at Bennett Cottage at Normal, Illinois.

At the present time there are 17 members with the following officers: Chairman, Marlene Wilde; Vice Chairman, Nadine Wilde; Secretary, Linda Custer; Chaplain, Mary Sue Alexander; Treasurer, Alice Challacombe; Sergeant-at-arms, Sharon Wilde; Historian, Nancy Daab, Mrs. Walter Bolle is Junior Advisor. Ruth Bolle is 22d District Chairman; Nadine Wilde 22d District Historian.

Past Presidents: Phena Dehn, 1922-23; Ida Schneider, 1923-24; Consuelo Volkert, 1924-25; Florence Kunz, 1925-26; Lee Weibacher, 1926-29; Lillian Heise, 1929-30; Fleda Nicks, 1930-31; Hilda Mueller, 1931-32; Ida Schneider Harres, 1932-36; Minnie Heise, 1936-38; Hilda Mueller, 1938 (died in office); Tillie Bergmann, December 1938-41; Lee Weibacher, 1941-43; Alma Kremmel, 1943-45; Lydia Schewe, 1945-47; Alma Kremmel, 1947-49; Amalia Bolle, 1949-51; Irene Haberl, 1951-53; Tillie Harres, 1953-55; Lydia Immenga, 1955-56; Margaret Mueller, 1956-58; Laura M. Kremmel, 1958-59.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS 1958-59

President, Laura M. Kremmel; 1st Vice President, Esther Stumpf; 2d Vice President, Tillie Schorb; Secretary, Hilda Wilde; Treasurer, Lucille Woodcock; Historian, Frieda Thiele; Chaplain, Virginia Klein; Sergeant-at-Arms, Alma Rudolph; Color Bearers, Laura Wood and Leona Stechmesser.

## COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The present Columbia Public Library was originally sponsored by the Columbia Woman's Club. Club members felt that Columbia was badly in need of a library. There was no place available where the general public could borrow reference and research books or other good reading material.

The Columbia Woman's Club had furnished a room in the Municipal Building where they held their regular meetings. They agreed that they would be happy to give up this room as a meeting place so that it might be used as a library.

A solution was offered in the Fall of 1948 when Miss Helene Rogers, assistant librarian of the Illinois State Library was the guest speaker at the Woman's Club meeting.

Miss Rogers explained that a state demonstration library might be of help in establishing a library. A library organization in the club could procure books from the State Library for a limited time if the club would pay the postage for getting the books here and returning them. The Club would also provide a suitable place.

Mrs. Dorothy Eppinger, president of the club, and Mrs. Tom Henderson appeared before the City Council and asked for the use of the room as a library. The council agreed to do this and also promised to install shelves, provide heat, light and janitor service. The Woman's Club offered to staff the library and pay all expenses.

It was agreed that residents of Columbia School District No. 4 would be eligible for library service as well as the citizens of Columbia.

On February 22, 1951 the library was formally dedicated with Mrs. Laura Langston, Chief of the Illinois State Extension Service, present to answer any questions relative to the new project. The library room was very attractive, and at the time of the dedication had 2000 books on the shelves, mostly the property of the State. Mayor A. C. Metter made the dedicatory address and presented the library with the Book of Books—the Bible.

The club made the announcement that they would staff the library, aided by Columbia High School pupils, and church members from the various churches of Columbia. It was to be operated part time and during vacation there would be leisure time activities. There was a staff of about forty available. The first six weeks showed a circulation of 200 books.

Feeling the need for a permanent library, for this was a temporary project, they were advised to secure a district library on a tax supported basis. If this were voted in, a tax rate of 60c on the \$1000 valuation would be automatically levied. The idea was indorsed and on June 6 an election was called. The district library plan was defeated with the vote 262 against and 215 for.

When the Municipal building was enlarged after an election on March 1, 1955 to authorize this, space was provided for the library in the new addition.

A committee from the Woman's Club appeared at the meeting of the City Board at the January 1958 meeting and asked for a publicly supported library. They were

given the proper legal procedure and at the April meeting they submitted for the establishment of a City Library the required petition signed by 185 residents of Columbia. The City Council then agreed to establish a tax supported library in Columbia.

This program went into effect on May 1, 1959 with Mrs. Tom Henderson, librarian.

The library is open three afternoons a week and on Friday evening. It is very modern and attractive. About 4,000 books are upon the shelves.

It is served also by the Southern Illinois University Bookmobile and the Kaskaskia Regional Library Bookmobile which makes regular trips here. Upon request of the Columbia librarian the State Library will furnish any book requested by a patron of the Columbia Library. These loans are called inter-library loans.

The Library Board appointed by the City Council is as follows: Betty Cash, Walter W. Giffhorn, Jr., Florence E. Haberl, Thomas Henderson, Thelma Herbst, Wilbert Kremmel, Ruth Schmidt, Mary Ellen Norman, Mary Ann Roediger.

Leisure time activities for the children are provided during vacation months.

## THE COLUMBIA WOMAN'S CLUB

The Columbia Woman's Club has had an interesting history. It had its inception in the old Columbia Literary Society in 1912 under O. S. Hayes. Meetings were held at the old Columbia Public School. The seventh and eighth grade rooms were thrown together to make a large assembly room. Pupils of the eighth grade were eligible, as well as the general public. Debates were held, parliamentary procedure studied and spelling bees held. Columbia men and women interested in education attended and took part in the programs, as well as school board members and business men. Early presidents were Louis Ritter and Ernestine Smith, with Edwin Rauch, sergeant-at-arms.

Out of the group was evolved the Columbia Home Economics Club, an affiliate of the Farmers' Institute. Mrs. William Hills was the president of the County Unit in 1914, according to the State Farmers Institute year book. She was also the president of the Columbia club in its early days. During the time of the flood in the Bottom when many were barracked in the City Hall, old clubs records were accidentally destroyed.

The club reorganized, became known as the Columbia Household Science Club in 1920, with Miss Beulah Hampson, president. Miss Hampson was the Home Economics teacher at the old Columbia High School. At first, club meetings were held in the evening, but later in 1940, it became an afternoon club. Meetings were held in Woodman Hall, until the new City Hall building was completed. Some unusual programs were given, one with the late Mrs. Leo Weilbacher in charge, was a Christmas pageant. Betty Weilbacher was Mary, George Brucker was Joseph and the whole Columbia Drum and Bugle Corps played "We Three Kings of the Orient Are", as the Processional. The club made Christmas visits to the Alms House, bearing gifts, and now visits the Monroe County Nursing Home.

The club worked for the establishment of the Parent-Teacher Assn. They also worked to get a County nurse, indorsed all educational moves, and had their club meeting in conjunction with war time bandage making. They sponsored the Girl Scouts, helped with

furnishing the Scout Hut, furnished a room at the City Hall for the use of all women's organizations. As early as 1938 they tried to get a P. W. A. library. Later it became the library which was staffed by club members and friends. Under the guidance of the club the new city library was evolved, with Mrs. T. B. Henderson, the club's treasurer, also the librarian.

The club meets the third Thursday of the month in the city auditorium. It is an affiliate of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs and is also an affiliate of the district and county organizations.

Present officers are: Mrs. Dorothy Christopher, President; Mrs. Wm. Lengfelder, Vice President; Mrs. T. B. Henderson, Secretary; Mrs. Fred Wills, Corresponding Secretary and Mrs. Wayne Compton, Treasurer. The club has forty-five members.

Working in conjunction with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the club's hospitality committee calls on newcomers to Columbia, officially welcoming them to the city.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Waterloo Council No. 1334, Knights of Columbus, Waterloo, Illinois, with which Columbia members are affiliated, was granted a charter June 14, 1908, and one year ago on that date celebrated their golden jubilee.

The organization committee consisted of three Brother Knights: Brothers Bennett James, Hugh Murphy and John Koenigsmark.

The Knights of Columbus is a society founded upon Christian principles of service to God, Country and Fellowman.

The slogan of the Knights is Charity, Fraternity, Unity and Patriotism.

The founder, the Reverend Michael J. McGivney, desired that the families of Catholic men should be protected from privation at the death of the father or husband, and this desire motivated him in the establishment of the fraternal organization of Waterloo Council.

Council officers for 1958-59 from Columbia are: Erwin A. Hankamer, Deputy Grand Knight; Norman Schmidt, Advocate; Howard Haberl, Outside Guard. Chas. W. Gruninger served as Grand Knight in 1952-53.

The Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus was established in 1924 in Waterloo. The present officers from Columbia are: Faithful Comptroller, Norman Kutterer and Faithful Outer Sentinel, Al Kish and Roy P. Conrad. Faithful Captain who is now Faithful Navigator elect. Guido Serafini has also served as Faithful Navigator.

The principal function of the Fourth Degree is to serve as a guard of honor at public appearances of His Excellency, the Bishop of Belleville Diocese.

Over a million Catholic men belong to this very worthwhile organization.

### COLUMBIA ROTARY CLUB

Members of the newly organized Rotary Club were guests of the Millstadt Rotary Club on February 2, 1948, at a dinner meeting which preceded the organization program and election of officers for the Columbia club. The meeting was in charge of Oscar Krick, A. J. Mollman and Ray Payne, a former Columbian. These three Rotarians were the organizers of the Columbia club.

The first meeting after organization was held at the Sangralee at a dinner meeting on February 9, 1948. Meetings were to be held on Monday night of each week from 6:15 to 7:30.

February 23, 1948 was Charter Night with 27 charter members participating. There were about 250 guests from neighboring Rotary Clubs in attendance at this meeting.

The objects of the Rotary are: to encourage and foster the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation; the application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life; the advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

The Rotary Club each year has a Rural Urban Night, the purpose of which is to bring town and country folks closer together. Each Rotarian invites a country neighbor.

Inter-Club meetings were also a part of Rotary—neighboring Rotary Clubs being invited to Columbia with Columbia serving as host club.

First officers were: Ed Rudolph, President; T. B. Henderson, Vice President; Roy P. Conrad, Secretary; Arthur P. Wink, Treasurer; Dr. S. W. Susewind, Gustav C. Goekeler and Walter Reichert, Directors; Sergeant-at-Arms, Fred Bruenig.

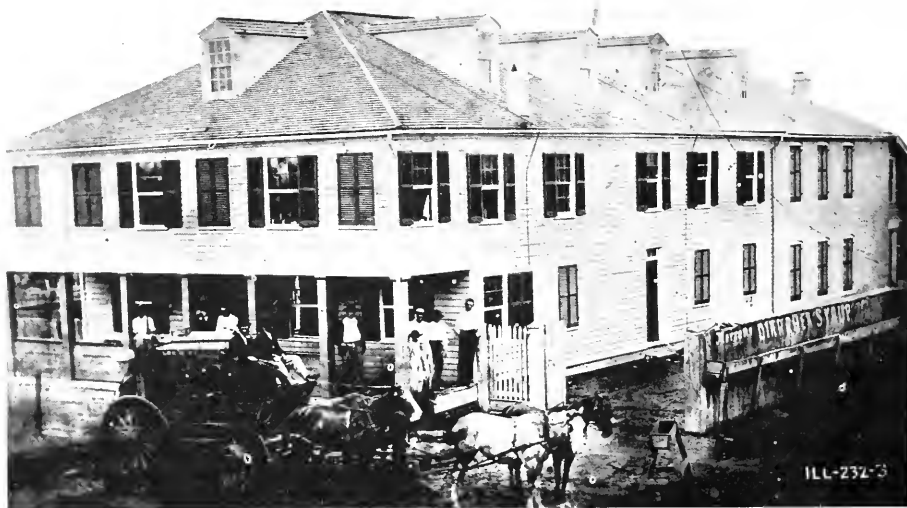
Besides the officers, charter members included: Gustav H. Boemer, Charles F. Diehl, Rev. Gerhard Friz, Edd L. Ghent, C. A. Hacker, William S. Haudrich, Walter F. Landgraf, Elmer and Forrest Oerter, Kendall Puckett, Walter F. Rapp, Orville C. Schmidt, Herbert Vogt, F. William Welnel, L. A. Weilbacher, Jr., Robert E. Weilbacher, George R. Wilde and Erwin Withum, Jr.

Present officers are Alfred Asselmeier, President; Oliver Riechmann, Vice President; Arthur F. Rueck, Secretary; Elmer Dillon, Treasurer; Jacob Daab, Sergeant-at-Arms; directors, Charles J. Grueninger, Wm. Cash and Emilio Bassy.

Among many projects sponsored by the Rotary Club were: summer playground supervised activities for several years; the celebration of the "Gay White Way" lighting project; flood lights on the high school ball diamond for night games, which were later moved and re-erected at the Legion Memorial baseball park.

One of the most unusual programs was a tape recording of the Olympic games when this event was held in Australia.

The Rotary has two honorary members—Dr. F. L. Eversull and E. L. Rauch.



## THE STAGE COACH STOPS AT THE FRANKLIN INN

### JUENGLING TAVERN

Flames wrote the last chapter of the story of the picturesque old Juengling Tavern on Main street in Columbia in 1958. The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department burned the building after workmen had tried dismantling it in the orthodox manner. Walnut logs and handmade nails and century old construction made tearing down such a problem that a torch was applied.

It was razed to make way for the new projects of the Immaculate Conception Church, which include a school playground and recreation center and later perhaps other necessary buildings.

The old tavern and hotel had much interesting history. Many tracts of the original property were sold and these present a picture of the old names in Columbia history. Old deeds lent us by the Juengling family show it was 130 years old. It was purchased in 1828 by Robert Coleman. He established a grist mill, an ox mill, old records call it, for oxen were the power to run it. Coleman also had a store there.

Old deeds show that in 1838 Stephen Gardner sold the property to Tom Morgan and Patrick Artimony. In April of 1840 these men and their wives, sold to Henry Randleman. None of the sellers could write as was evidenced by their marks. Witnesses were John Divers and Moses Hart. Cassandre Randleman, executrix of the will of Randleman, sold her husband's property as specified in his will, to Ernst Grosse and Richard Stueck, grand-

father of Alvin Klein. In 1853 Stueck sold his part to Mr. Grosse. Old histories call this inn the Franklin Inn. Later it was known as Buck Tavern. Its sign was adorned with the horns of a deer, hence its name. Mr. Grosse started the hotel and tavern in 1840. It was famous for its hospitality. Here the stage coach stopped and changed horses. The passengers refreshed themselves for the long journey to Renault which was the over-night stop en route to Kaskaskia where most passengers went to pre-empt land.

Prices for liquor, and this included a free lunch, were \$1.25 a gallon for cheap whiskey and \$1.85 for the best, and by the drink 5 and 10 cents. Horses were fed there too at a comparable price and a deep well under the porch provided abundant water for stock.

August F. Weinell, son-in-law of Mr. Grosse conducted the tavern until about 1872 when the stage coach gave way to the railroad.

Ernst Grosse sold the place to Charles Juengling of St. Louis in 1873. Mr. Juengling took over the tavern and other members of his family conducted it for eighty-five years. Fred, senior, purchased it in 1912; Fred, junior and senior succeeded him and then Fred Junior operated it until 1954 when Charles Bergmann took charge.

John Kolb, who lived across the street from the present Weinell Lumber Yard, was one of the early stage coach drivers.



# HISTORY OF COLUMBIA LODGE NO. 474 A. F. AND A. M. 1866 - 59

"The Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Columbia Lodge U. D. A. F. and A. Masons met in Regular Communication at Masonic Hall, in the Town of Columbia, County of Monroe, State of Illinois, Jan. 6, at 7 o'clock p. m., A. D. 1866, A. L. 5866, and opened on the first, second and third degrees of Masonry in form. Present were: W. Bro. D. S. Donagin, Master; Bro. F. Horan, Senior Warden; Bro. H. A. Bornemann, Junior Warden; Bro. J. A. Reid, Treasurer; Bro. L. Warnock, Secretary; Bro. A. F. Agnew, Senior Deacon; Bro. Michael Doren, Junior Deacon; Bro. George W. Scheuerman, Tyler."

These are the first recorded minutes of Columbia and represent all the first history of Columbia Lodge No. 474, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Columbia, Illinois. There is no record of who organized the Lodge nor who besides the officers were members.

A meeting was held on Sept. 15, 1866, at which time officers were elected to be named in the charter. These elected officers were installed on Friday night, Oct. 26, 1866, and were installed by Brother Charles Meyer, "acting as proxy for the Grand Master."

The officers were: Frank Horan, Master; H. A. Bornemann, Senior Warden; H. S. Hibbard, Junior Warden; Lafayette Warnock, Treasurer; Jas. L. Gall, Secretary; G. Hoffman, Senior Deacon; James McKee, Junior Deacon; John Angerer, Steward; Christian Reither, Steward; August Hoffman, Tyler.

The first meeting place was in the Scheuerman building, now upstairs over Greatting's Market; then the old Methodist Brick church, now the site of the high school building until 1870. The next meeting place was above Charles Schneider's furniture store at the corner of Main and Mulberry streets until 1876; then they met in the "new building of Messrs. Niemeier and Weinell" until the Masonic Hall building was completed on the present site of the First National Bank building. On Sept. 30, 1882 the Masonic Hall Association was incorporated and on Oct. 17, 1882 the contract was let to erect a three-story brick building, 33 feet x 70 feet for the sum of \$7077.65. The third floor of this building was the meeting place for Columbia Lodge.

This building was destroyed by fire March 12, 1953. A new site on Columbia city route 3 was purchased at the northern city limits and a Masonic Temple erected. Formal dedication ceremonies were held Dec. 18, 1954.

This building has a lodge room, ante-room, lounges, dining room, kitchen, conference room and recreation room.

It is also the meeting place of the Order of the Eastern Star, Job's Daughters Bethel and the E. A. Weinell De Molay chapter.

In 1914 Herman L. Rose was commissioned a Grand Lecturer and subsequently appointed District Grand Master of this Masonic District. F. W. Weinell was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 91st District in 1943.

Ernst Grosse was elected treasurer in 1869, serving until his death in 1892, succeeded by A. F. Weinell who served until his death in 1913. Ernst A. Weinell was elected to succeed his father and served until his death.

## Past Masters from 1866 to 1959

D. S. Donagin 1866; Frank Horan 1866-68; Fred Daab 1869; Madison G. Nixon, 1870-74; 1877; 1882-84; 1886; 1889-95; 1898-99; H. A. Bornemann 1875; Wm. F. Smith 1876; Monroe M. Gray 1878; 1880-81; Isaac H. Brown 1879; Wm. B. Smith 1885; Albert L. Martin 1887; Corry M. Fike 1888; Jos. M. Armin 1896-7; Emil Heer 1900; E. A. Weinell

1901-2; Hy. Reichenbach 1903-4; Hy. Rueck 1905-06; H. N. Kunz 1907-8; Geo. B. Schoening 1909-10; Herman L. Rose 1911-12; 1918; F. W. Weinell 1913-15; Geo. Grob 1916; Chas. L. Ebel 1917; Chas. Williams 1919-20; Albert Lepp 1921-22; Robert C. Kunz 1923; Christ L. Dehn 1924-25 and 1929; Ira J. Mund 1926; Chas. A. Brucker 1927-28 and 1930; Alvin E. Tunze 1931-32; John W. Compton 1933; Chas. W. Swartz 1934; John W. Hamilton, Jr. 1935; Hy. F. Breuer 1936; Allen W. Robertson 1937; Herman F. Tanke 1938; Wm. F. Taake 1939-40; Clarence A. Hacker 1941; Roland E. Muskopf 1942; Benjamin E. Bowers 1943; Wm. Henfling 1944; Wayne S. Compton 1945; Louis J. Loewe 1946; N. S. Church 1947; E. E. Scott 1948; P. P. Pretzlic 1949; C. H. Bordewisch 1950; P. C. Beal 1951; W. D. Bailey 1952; George Pentecost 1953; R. J. Tunze 1954; H. O. Schaefer 1955; O. L. Brewer 1956; Alvin N. Koch 1957; V. A. Hoepfinger 1958; J. E. Rains 1959.

Officers serving in 1959 are: Worshipful Master, James Rains; Senior Warden, Russell E. Smith; Junior Warden, Robert L. Bottiaux; Treasurer, Clifford H. Bordewisch; Secretary, Wayne Compton; Senior Deacon, Adam E. Mernick; Junior Deacon, Louis J. Girard; Senior Steward, Harvey W. Hoover; Junior Steward, James B. Barfield; Chaplain, Vernon A. Hoepfinger; Marshal, Martin C. Dunkin; Tyler, Peter P. Pretzlic.

## HISTORY OF MONROE CHAPTER NO. 597 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF ILLINOIS

On August 21, 1907, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Erns. Weinell, the preliminary plans were made to organize a Chapter of the Eastern Star in Columbia. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, members of the Rob Morris Chapter, O.E.S. of East St. Louis helped in this organization.

Twenty-one Columbians signed a petition to the Grand Chapter of Illinois for dispensation to form a new Chapter. The following who signed the petition are also charter members of the Chapter: Julia Hills, Lydia Rapp, Emma Grosse, Louisa McKee, Adelia Rose, Lizzie Armin, Bertha Armin, Bertha M. C. Weinell, Ida Kunz, Adelia Schoening, Emma Rueck, Emelia Kunz, August F. Weinell, Bertha Weinell, Ernst and Mollie Weinell, Emelia Weinell, Lena Wenkel, Emelia Grosse, Elizabeth Schoening and Henry N. Kunz.

This request was granted and the Monroe Chapter No. 597 O. E. S. was instituted on August 31, 1907.

Brother W. P. Vaughn of Rob Morris Chapter 98, O. E. S. served as Deputy Grand Worthy Patron. Assisted by officers and members of his Chapter he instituted Monroe Chapter 597 and installed the Charter officers.

The charter officers were: Worthy Matron, Julia Gross Hills; Worthy Patron, Ernst Weinell; Associate Matron, Lydia Rapp; Secretary, Emma Grosse; Treasurer, Mollie Weinell; Conductress, Louisa McKee; Associate Conductress, Adelia Rose; Marshal, Lizzie Armin; Chaplain, Henry N. Kunz; Adah, Bertha Armin; Ruth, Bertha M. C. Weinell; Esther, Ida Kunz; Martha, Adelia Schoening; Electa, Emma Rueck; Organist, Emelia Weinell; Warden, Emelia Kunz; Sentinel, August F. Weinell.

On that evening, petitions from four candidates were received, accepted, balloted upon and initiated. The four were: Fred G. Rapp, F. W. Weinell; George B. Schoening and Henry Reichenbach.

The Chapter meetings were held on the third floor of the Masonic Hall building in the Masonic Hall.

In 1917 the United States went to war. The Chapter bought Liberty Bonds, and a Service flag. They donated to the War Camp Recreation Fund, the Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., War Relief Fund, and the Soldiers' Memorial

They worked many hours on Red Cross Home projects and supported a fatherless child in France, named Rachel LeClere.

World War II came, and again the members worked for the Red Cross, made dressings, served at Blood Banks, saw the boys go forth to battle.

In 1943 a tragic flood occurred on the Mississippi river. The Chapter donated services and supplies to the stricken. A reading and recreation room was set up for the soldiers from Scott Field who were here to help hold the levees.

A Bethel of Job's Daughters was established in 1948 which was given moral and financial assistance by the chapter.

A chapter of DeMolay was started in 1950 and the Chapter sewed all the DeMolay robes.

In March of 1953 a fire started in the theatre on the first floor of the Masonic building and destroyed most of the contents and the belongings of the O. E. S., Masons, Job's Daughters, and the DeMolay. Then meetings were held in the Brucker building, the Columbia high school gymnasium and the Dupo grade school gymnasium.

A new Masonic Temple on route 3 on the northern city limits, was built and dedicated, and the first Eastern Star meeting held there on June 24, 1954.

In July of 1954, Adelia Schwartz, Past Matron, was honored as being the first Grand Lecturer from Monroe Chapter.

The chapter is fortunate in having had the services of officers who filled their positions for many years: Past Matron, Bertha Arnin Schoening, also a charter member, has been an officer for 52 years of continuous service.

Past Matron Lydia Rapp, also a charter member, held office for 37 years.

Past Patron W. A. Schoening served as Worthy Patron for 24 years.

Dorothy Weinle Eppinger has been an officer for 25 years.

Past Matron Viola Rapp Rueck held various chairs for 20 years.

The following are the Past Matrons from 1907-59: Julia Hills, 1907-09; Lydia Rapp, 1910-14; Adelia Rose, 1915; Mollie Weinle, 1916-17; Bertha Schoening, 1918-20; Zula Bollinger, 1921-22; Elizabeth Weinle, 1923-24; Florence Kueffner, 1925-26; Viola Rapp Rueck, 1927-28; Amelia Swartz, 1929; Ruth Burke, 1930-31; Ophelia Mueller, 1932-33; Emelia Tunze, 1934; Virginia Landgraf, 1935; Dorothy Weinle, 1936; Anna Gaines, 1937; Elsie Tunze, 1938; Esther Cohen, 1939; Gertrude Swartz, 1940; Edna Daab, 1941; Adelia Schwartz, 1942; Lucille Bersche, 1943; Florence Becker, 1944; Edna Faulkner, 1945; Marie Goley, 1946; Theresa Stroupe, 1947; Rosalind Blittersdorf, 1948; Grace Lenhardt, 1949; Necia Bryant, 1950; Opal Peters, 1951; Bernice Church, 1952; Ruth Raitt, 1953; Ruth Brubaker, 1954; Alma Bordevisch, 1955; Lorraine Kossina, 1956; Florine Burks, 1957; Elsa Mae Jacobs, 1958.

The principal officers for the year 1959 are: Mary McDaniel, Worthy Matron; Norman Smothers, Worthy Patron; Associate Matron, Hazel Miller; Associate Patron, Lewis J. Girard; Secretary, Bertha Schoening; Treasurer, Dorothy Eppinger; Conductress, Florence Haberl; Associate Conductress, Clara Kirtle; Chaplain, Frieda Lopinot; Marshal, Opal Cook; Organist, Ida Thompson; Adah, Patricia Smothers; Ruth, Gladys Wills; Esther, Miriam Girard; Martha, Lucinda Smith; Electa, Evelyn Schnell; Warden, Anetha Schiemer; Sentinel, Clifford H. Bordevisch; Color-Bearer, Ray Tunze.

## LIONS CLUB

The Columbia Lions Club charter night was celebrated at the Columbia Turner Hall October 1, 1952. The Waterloo Lions Club sponsored this organization, and James L. Kitchens, International Councilor, assisted their organization.

The Charter members of this organization were: Emilio Bassy, Arthur Beckmann, George J. Brucker, James Crowe, Lester Deffenbaugh, Albert Diehl, Walter Friedrich, Walter Giffhorn, Clifford Haberl, Guy Haltenhof, Stanley Herbst, Wayne Hettenhausen, H. G. Immenga, Alvin N. Koch, Leo Koberlein, August McConkey, Carl L. Schiemer, Frank Schmidt and George F. Vogt.

Officers and directors were: President, Alvin N. Koch; 1st vice pres., James Crowe; 2d vice pres., George F. Vogt; 3d vice pres., Arthur Beckmann; sec., Stanley Herbst; treas., Walter Giffhorn; Lion Tamer, Guy Haltenhof; Tail Twister, George J. Brucker; Directors: Frank Schmidt, Carl L. Schiemer, Lester Deffenbaugh and August McConkey.

The Lions slogan is: L for liberty; I for intelligence; O for our; N for Nation's; S for Safety.

Their annual achievements are: Support for the Leader Dog to the Blind, the Hadley School for the Blind, Mentally Retarded Children and sponsoring a Khoury League team.

The projects which they have completed are: the presentation of bicycle racks for the public and parochial schools; a flag pole for the Catholic school and contributions amounting to \$600 for the Khoury League.

Ever since their organization it has been the desire of the Lions Club to have a swimming pool in Columbia. Obstacles have interposed, chiefly financial, but the Lions have kept this project constantly in mind. Recently the club voted in favor of making a study of the feasibility of a swimming pool for the city and appointed a committee to work out the details. Lions International has a club project reporting in detail the cost, the operating costs and revenue. This will be studied, and appropriate action taken after mature consideration.

Present Lions Club officers are: President James H. Crowe; Sec.-Treas., Walter Friedrich; 1st vice pres., Elmer Diel; 2d vice pres., Lowell Campbell; 3d vice pres., Roy Limestall; Tail Twister, Arthur (Bunny) Rueck; Lion Tamer, Carl Schiemer; directors are: Carl Schiemer, Clifford Haberl, Kendall Puckett, Lowell Campbell and Elmer Diel.

## BI-COUNTY TOASTMASTERS 826

The Bi-County Toastmasters 826 received its charter Thursday, June 15, 1950 at a meeting at Oerter's Sangralee restaurant.

Charter members were: R. P. Cash, W. H. Cash, Lester Deffenbaugh, Walter Giffhorn, Guy E. Haltenhof, Harold Harres, Kenneth Harres, Paul Heisler, Arthur Kruse, E. J. Lude, August McConkey, William E. McFarlane, Dr. Charles L. Moskop, Harold Pieper, Pete Radison, Elmer G. Rauch, G. P. Reis, William J. Ryan, Chester G. Schmidt, Herbert Schueler, Leo Weibacher, B. D. Wohlwend.

First Officers were: President, Guy E. Haltenhof; Vice President, Chester Schmidt; Secretary, William Ryan; Treasurer, Lester Deffenbaugh; Deputy Governor, William McFarlane; Education Chairman, Leo Weibacher; Sergeant at arms, R. P. Cash.

Present members are: Walter Giffhorn, Alvin Koch, Lloyd Lindemann, August McConkey, Robert Myrick, Harold Nolte, Clarence Pickering, Wm. R. Phelps, Har-

veylouis Stumpf, Clarence Schueler, B. D. Wohlwend, and Len Petrask.

Present officers are: President, Alvin Koch; Educational Vice President, B. D. Wohlwend; Administrative Vice President, Clarence Schueler; Secretary-Treasurer, William R. Phelps; Sergeant at arms, Walter Giffhorn.

The following members won area speech contests and participated in District Speech contests: 1951, William McFarlane; 1953, Edward Nieman; 1957, Walter Giffhorn; 1958, Lloyd Lindemann.

The club has furnished speakers for various civic functions: Memorial Day services, Masters of Ceremonies for parades; Judges for student speech contests; programs for other organizations; speakers to other organizations; and groups to promote Red Cross Blood Donations, TB Chest x-rays.

The purpose of this organization is: To improve its members in the oral expression of thought; to increase their ability to appear before audiences and creditably express themselves, and to encourage the development of such ability in others; to secure fair and constructive criticism; to promote sociability, general welfare, and good fellowship amongst its members; to gain experience in public speaking and instruction in chairmanship and parliamentary procedure.

#### HISTORY OF COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL CLUB OR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A history of the Columbia Commercial Club, or the Chamber of Commerce, as it is now called, is almost the history of modern Columbia.

A perusal of old club records pictures its development. Every measure for the good of Columbia was referred to this organization, where it was carefully studied, and, if worthy, received the indorsement of the organization. Farmers and townspeople joined the club.

The Commercial Club was organized October 3, 1913. Officers were: President, Ernst A. Weinle; vice president, Herman L. Rose; secretary, Henry N. Kunz; treasurer, George Roessler. Executive committee: F. W. Weinle, E. J. Schneider, W. A. Schoening, Albert Lepp.

Road building was of primary importance and the first year saw much of this. A report from the Good Roads Committee reveals why: "the Millstadt road, since road work outlined by the Club has been completed, can now be traversed in wet weather." The club bought three road drags for road districts and saw that they were used; gave money for roads, got donations, plus city and county aid; helped secure a state road outfit which constructed 1200 feet of road on Schneider's hill south of town; reconditioned parts of North and South Second streets, and Cherry and Pine streets; and helped road commissioners get rock for district roads from the street railway. They were instrumental in getting 550 feet for rock roads 13 feet wide on the Millstadt road near town; helped by getting donations to get 1500 feet of road made on the Millstadt road at a cost of \$10 to the district; bought a car load of rock for Schlemmer's Hill, and saw that it got on the road. The Club had a peculiar but very effective way of getting road materials. They would donate a car load of rock if the district would buy four.

In their first year they entertained the triennial convention of the Modern Woodmen of the county; helped entertain the Catholic Societies of the Diocese; Group 9 of the Illinois State Bankers' Association. They served as hosts at these affairs.

An advertising man with the Chicago group fell a victim to Columbia's charm, and had some signs printed,

christening Columbia "Spotless Town". He had these placed on the street cars and other places.

The club, in 1915, helped entertain at the Farmers' Institute here at the Turner Hall, and spent \$100 for advertising the event. As a result, 5000 came on Education Day. The City Club and the Business Men's League of St. Louis had been invited by Mayor Rapp to this event, and they came on special street cars. They marched in the parade, their bands joining with the Columbia Band, and the 2500 school children from all over the county.

The Club sponsored and helped organize the Columbia Building and Loan Association, helping sell the first 418 shares of stock. They attended and entered a float in the Belleville Centennial celebration. At the request of Mayor Fred Baltz of Millstadt they entered a float in the Millstadt Homecoming parade and won first prize.

The next year they gained 49 members and their membership was well over one hundred. They had interesting meetings, good speakers and a lunch always followed the meetings. Farm members brought in their fine sausages and as a reward received a year's membership to the club. Meetings were held in New Hanover and all surrounding settlements with splendid attendance and interest. The Club's indorsement of civic projects was always sought and when they indorsed they got out and worked for the project.

A community high school appeared to be the solution to the high school problem, so the club invited everyone to attend the meeting called to explain the proposition. On January 12, 1920 a report was made by their education committee, Fred G. Rapp, R. P. Briegel and John C. Gummshelmer that the proposition had carried by a vote of 107 to 47. However, since the law provided that there could be an election every two years on the will of the voter to keep the school, the proposition was defeated in 1922 when it came up for a vote, by (408) for and (985) against.

The Club was anxious to get industries to Columbia but they would not buy a building nor pay a bonus. The only one that ever came on these terms, the Columbia Cleaning and Dyeing Co., was in the Mills Building. Fire destroyed their machinery and the plant was discontinued.

In World War I the Turners and Commercial Club gave a going-away party for the first soldiers called to the colors. They had happy memories when they entrained for Camp Taylor. They sponsored another celebration when our boys came home.

The Club sponsored the Boy Scout Troop and Ed Schneider, as their Scoutmaster. This was in 1917.

The Commercial Club officially adopted a slogan for Columbia. It was "Columbia, the City of Gardens and Homes, thirty minutes from Broadway, St. Louis."

The Club entered the Columbia Drum and Bugle Corps in the Pageant of Progress celebration in E. St. Louis; indorsed the city park plan, contributed to the new Columbia Band; indorsed and helped with the distillery project. On February 11, 1935 they presented former Mayor Rapp, the club president, with a purse filled with bills, as a token of their esteem for his 24 years of service as mayor; they indorsed the 1 1/2 mill sewer maintenance tax, Lions' Club; Scout Hut and the Legion Hut. On February 27, 1940, they conducted a mass meeting on the new city building proposition. As usual the proposition carried and the club now holds their meetings in the building they worked for.

The Commercial Club has changed its name to "The Columbia Chamber of Commerce." Present officers are: Clarence Schueler, President; Eugene Schaub, vice presi-

dent; Wm. Cash, Secretary; Arthur P. Wink, treasurer.

The Chamber prepared and distributed a brochure advertising Columbia. The brochure is presented to newcomers when the Chamber's welcoming committee calls on new residents of Columbia. The Columbia Woman's Club appoints a committee for this purpose.

The Chamber sponsors Khoury League baseball and has a team in the field this year. The Chamber has taken over Christmas street decorations for the community Christmas celebration. It has also provided a baseball scoreboard in the Legion's new recreational area.

The Chamber is assisting in every way with the Columbia Centennial celebration. George Wilde, Erwin Withum and William Cash comprise the solicitation committee; Arthur P. Wink heads the Centennial organization, with Leo Wellbacher Centennial Queen Committee Chairman.

On the agenda for the years ahead is county zoning and correction of stream pollution. As in the past the Chamber of Commerce will do its best to serve Columbia faithfully and help her solve her municipal problems.

### COLUMBIA BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Columbia Building and Loan Association was organized on July 20, 1914.

The original capital stock of the organization was \$500,000.

The first Board of Directors consisted of the following: Emil H. Brucker, Henry Giffhorn, George Grob, Henry N. Kunz, Fred G. Rapp, Henry Reichenbach, George W. Smith, Ernst A. Weinell and F. W. Weinell.

G. W. Smith was the first president of the Board of Directors and served in this office until his death in 1924. Emil H. Brucker was the first secretary, and he served until his death in 1933. Mr. Brucker was succeeded by F. W. Weinell in 1933 and he has served continuously in that position up until the present time. Mr. Weinell served on the first Board of Directors, and he is the last surviving member of that first Board.

The Columbia Commercial Club was vitally interested in the Columbia Building and Loan Association and helped to sell the first 448 shares of Building and Loan stock.

A Building and Loan Association is an asset to a community. It provides funds for many citizens to finance the purchase of a home; to save systematically or to finance the education of children. It also provides investors a safe investment for their funds.

Since its inception in 1914 the Columbia Building and Loan has efficiently provided these services. It has a record for sound business operation, and has done much to promote the growth and welfare of Columbia.

The assets of the association as of the close of its last fiscal year on July 31, 1958 totalled \$670,388.69.

Following is a list of the Officers and Directors as of July 31, 1958: A. W. Lepp, President; Wm. J. Thebus, Vice President; F. W. Weinell, Secretary; H. A. Lude, Treasurer. Directors: Arthur Beckmann, Walter F. Giffhorn, A. W. Lepp, H. A. Lude, Wm. A. Schulte, K. W. Simonds, Wm. J. Thebus, F. W. Weinell and John S. Huber, Attorney.

This association is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, Illinois Savings and Loan League and United Savings and Loan League.

From its inception in 1914 to 1933 the meetings were held in the First National Bank; after 1933 meetings were held in the A. F. Weinell Lumber Company office, where they now meet.

### HISTORY OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The First National Bank of Columbia was chartered April 19, 1905 and opened in August of that year.

J. W. Perry of the National Bank of Commerce of St. Louis helped with the procurement of the charter, then later sold his interest to Henry Kolmer.

The Bank was capitalized for \$25,000. The following officers served at its opening: President, E. F. Schoening; Vice President, August F. Weinell; Cashier, Henry N. Kunz. Directors were Charles Schuler, Adolph Lambrecht, Henry Kolmer and John A. Pfeffer.

Mr. Schoening served as president of the bank until 1912. He was succeeded by Charles Schuler in 1913 to 1933, the catastrophic year in financial circles all over America.

In 1933 after the bank holiday the bank reopened as the First National Bank in Columbia. Capital and surplus were \$60,000. H. N. Kunz was elected president and served as president until 1942. He was succeeded by E. A. Weinell who served until 1947. Fred G. Rapp succeeded Mr. Weinell. The last two presidents have been Robert C. Kunz and C. A. Hacker. Mr. Hacker being the president at present.

The original directors in the 1933 reorganization were H. N. Kunz, Fred G. Rapp, E. A. Weinell, William Vogt, E. H. Gundlach, Henry Kolmer and Henry Fischer.

The First National Bank Building was originally in the Schiemer Insurance Agency building. Rapid growth of business taxed the facilities of the bank and in 1953 construction of a new bank building began. The Masonic Hall property was purchased. This building had burned March 13, 1953 and had destroyed a large part of the interior.

This building was completely remodeled and redecorated. The banking facilities are on the first floor and ultra-modern apartments on the second floor. The third floor was not restored.

The bank is a handsome, beautifully decorated modern structure, planned for the comfort and convenience of the customers. Parking space and a drive-in window are added features of the new bank.

Officers in the bank today include: C. A. Hacker, President; Herbert J. Vogt, Vice Pres.; D. W. Eppinger, Cashier; E. A. Hankamer, Asst. Cashier. Directors: Herbert J. Vogt, Charles J. Grueninger, Richard Harres, Arthur Kolmer, Walter Rapp, Fred Schewe, Clarence A. Hacker.

### HISTORY OF MONROE NATIONAL BANK

In 1920 nine citizens purchased the private bank operated by E. F. Schoening, Louis Dehn and Robert Needles. This institution was located in a small frame building next to the present post office.

The new bank was organized as the Monroe County Savings Bank and Trust Company. Officers were: E. F. Schoening, President; Kilian Koerver, Vice President and Louis Dehn, Cashier. Directors were Charles J. Schiele, Henry Weibacher, John C. Gummersheimer, Charles Diehl, Sr., John G. Schneider and E. L. Rauch.

This state banking institution was capitalized for \$50,000 with \$12,500 surplus.

The bank building became too small with the growth of the bank and it was moved to the present Post Office building now occupied by Dr. O. Kremer.

In 1933 the bank became a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The worst financial depression the country ever had, caused a bank moratorium and after the bank re-opened deposits grew fast.

The state bank was converted into a National Bank, and named Monroe National Bank, April 8, 1938.

With the growth of business the bank building again became too small and a new location was acquired in 1956. This location fronts on Main street from Mulberry street to Walnut street to a depth ranging from 155 to 195 feet. A new bank was built which is modern in design, with beautiful exterior and interior. It was built primarily for the comfort and convenience of its customers, with generous free parking facilities and drive-in service.

Since 1935 when footings were \$424,000; in 1945, \$2,000,000; in 1955 \$3,500,000 and on January 1, 1959 the all-time peak of \$6,157,177.89 was reached.

The present directors are: E. L. Rauch, Arthur P. Wink, Archie P. Wehl, Herman Heinrich, C. F. Weibacher, Arthur Kruse, Charles Menner, John C. Gummersheimer.

Officers and employees are: E. L. Rauch, Chairman of the Board; Arthur P. Wink, President; Lester F. Deffenbaugh, Cashier; Ruth Kuergeleis, Assistant Cashier; Kenneth G. Haller, Assistant Cashier; Victory Kuehner, Nancy Mitweide, Norine Pomeroy, Marie Kuehner, Bookkeeper-Tellers; Anna Marie Gummersheimer, Bookkeeper and Anna Lefholz, Custodian.

#### COLUMBIA GRAIN AND SEED COMPANY

Columbia Grain and Seed Company was organized on May 8, 1939, with Edwin C. Giffhorn, Alfred H. Vogt and Herbert J. Vogt as partners. The business to be carried on by this partnership was to be that of buying, selling and trading grain, grain products, feeds, seeds and fertilizers. This business also does custom feed grinding and mixing.

This venture proved successful and additions to the original building were made in 1941, 1946 and again in 1950.

At the present time the business is being operated under the individual ownership of Herbert J. Vogt, who has purchased the interest held in the business by the other partners.

This company is situated at 518 North Netter, with offices and mill in the same building.

#### HISTORY OF THE COLUMBIA QUARRY COMPANY

The company was organized in 1905; and the first purchase of quarry lands was the purchase of the Brown Quarry, located approximately two miles north of Columbia, Illinois. At the time of purchase, it was a very small plant and had the capacity of two twenty-ton cars per day. Most work was done on a hand basis with two-wheel carts pulled by mules as a source of haulage from the face to the small crushing plant. At that time, the quarry was located on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, which has since been incorporated into the G. M. & O. Railroad. This plant was increased in size, and in 1907, the company acquired the quarry east of Columbia which was later called Quarry No. 2 where most of the chemical stone was produced. Both plants were expanded from time to time; and the first plant, Quarry No. 1, burned in the summer of 1912. At that time, the plant had a capacity of in excess of 1,000 tons per day; and the No. 2 Quarry, about 300 tons per day.

During the first World War, a small part of the quarry site at Valmeyer, Illinois, was purchased from the Iron Mountain Railroad, now part of the Missouri Pacific system, and a small crushing plant installed.

From time to time, all plants were increased in size and capacity, but again fire destroyed our Quarry No. 1 in 1924. That was rebuilt the following year; and in that year, 1925, Quarry No. 2 was abandoned and expansions were made in the then remaining Columbia plant and the Valmeyer plant.

Both stone and sand and gravel properties were located up in other parts of Southern Illinois, some retained, but mostly abandoned.

In the latter part of the depression, acquisitions were made in the vicinity of Prairie du Rocher, Illinois; and a small plant was established there. The Elsberry, Missouri, Quarry was started about 1943.

During the war years, the plant at Prairie du Rocher, Illinois, was greatly enlarged; but, in 1947, part of the property was sold to Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation to supply their needs for stone for their soda ash plant at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 1947, the Columbia plant burned for the third time and was rebuilt the following year.

In 1948, they bought the operating quarry located at Ullin, Illinois; in 1957 the quarry at Mermet, Illinois, and also the property in the vicinity of Dupu, Illinois. At the present time, equipment is being installed to establish a large quarry at the Dupu site.

In the fifty years that Columbia Quarry Company has been in existence it has become the largest limestone producer in Southern Illinois, the daily capacity being six or seven thousand tons; the yearly capacity 1,250,000 tons.

The Columbia Quarry employs 125 men, with Elmer Heise, Superintendent.

Officers in the company are: H. C. Krause, President; C. H. Krause, Vice President; W. E. Schmidt, Vice President and Treasurer; A. J. Elliot, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Under the efficient supervision of Elmer Heise, superintendent of the plant, Quarry No. 1 has achieved a note-worthy safety record. The last lost time accident occurred on May 7, 1951. Manhours of exposure during this period approximately 1,100,000 hours. On May 7, 1959 it will be five years since the last lost time accident.

The previous outstanding record was from 1933 to 1938 inclusive for a period of over six years without a lost time case.

Quarry No. 1 was awarded the Explosives Engineer Plaque for clear records in 1935, 1936 and 1937 for the best safety record of all plants enrolled in the National Crushed Stone Association Safety Contest covering Quarries in the United States and Canada.



## HISTORY OF THE LUHR COMPANIES

The Luhr Companies and businesses of today are the outgrowth of a very small contracting business started by Eugene Luhr (deceased December 4, 1958) and Adelheid Luhr, his wife, during the year 1939.

On March 1, 1946 a Partnership consisting of Eugene Luhr, Adelheid Luhr, and Alois Luhr was formed. This Partnership is still in existence, however, it is not active in the contracting business.

A Corporation known as Luhr Bros., Inc., was incorporated on May 3, 1948 in the State of Illinois with the following officers — President, Eugene Luhr; Vice-President, Alois Luhr; Secretary-Treasurer, Adelheid Luhr. On December 13, 1954, Harry H. Niemann was appointed Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. These officers held their respective offices until the death of Eugene Luhr, after which the following officers were elected on January 31, 1959. President, Alois Luhr; Vice-President, W. H. Carder; Secretary-Treasurer, Adelheid Luhr; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Harry H. Niemann.

Eugene Luhr & Co., a Corporation, was incorporated in the State of Illinois on June 23, 1949 with the following officers — President, Eugene Luhr; First Vice-President, G. N. Hall; Second Vice-President, Alois Luhr; Secretary-Treasurer, A. G. Hall. On March 11, 1952 Eugene Luhr, Alois Luhr, and Adelheid Luhr purchased the stock of A. G. Hall and G. N. Hall and the following officers were then elected. President, Eugene Luhr; Vice-President, Alois Luhr; Secretary-Treasurer, Adelheid Luhr. On December 13, 1954, Harry H. Niemann was appointed Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. These officers held their respective offices until the death of Eugene Luhr, after which the following officers were elected on January 31, 1959. President, Alois Luhr; Vice-President, W. H. Carder; Secretary-Treasurer, Adelheid Luhr; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Harry H. Niemann.

The two Corporations are presently licensed as Foreign Corporations to do business in the following fourteen states of the United States: Arkansas, California, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Illinois.

During the past ten years they have completed projects in each of the fourteen states.

Following is a copy of a News Release from:

Office of The District Engineer

St. Louis District

Corps of Engineers, US Army

1050 Boatmen's Bank Building Annex

420 Locust Street

St. Louis 2, Missouri

15 January 1953

### NEWS RELEASE

"Colonel Fred E. Ressegieu, District Engineer, St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers, announced on 13 January 1953 that a contract for the construction of underseepage relief wells in the Columbia Drainage and Levee District and Prairie Du Rocher and vicinity, Monroe and Randolph Counties, Illinois, had been awarded to Luhr Bros., Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$172,935.

"The fact that Luhr Bros., Inc., Columbia, Illinois, was low bidder on this contract is indicative of the interest Earthwork Contractors are taking, and are encouraged to take, in the underseepage relief program, which program involves installation of seepage wells to relieve the hydrostatic pressure during floods and thus safeguard the stability of the levees.

"Luhr Bros., Inc., is well known throughout the mid-west. The firm began construction work on contracts under supervision of the Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in 1944, and to date has completed, or is in the process of completing, approximately 30 contracts involving the placement of some 25,000,000 cubic yards of earth fill in the construction of about 75 miles of levee along the Mississippi River and tributaries between Alton, Illinois and Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The earthwork construction was effected by the use of various types of earth moving equipment such as Tower Machine, draglines, varying in size from two to six yards, and scraper, Euclid and other types of haul equipment. In addition to the earthwork contracts, Luhr Bros., Inc. has constructed other types of flood control structures such as concrete closure structures at railroad levee crossings, gravity drainage structures, and access roads on levee crown."

At the present time the companies employ from nine hundred to one thousand employees during the course of a years' time and maintain approximately sixty full time employees. They now have projects in progress Nebraska City, Nebraska; Muncie, Indiana; Valley Park, Missouri; Grafton, Illinois; Hecker, Illinois; Alton, Illinois; Ste. Genevieve, Missouri; Carlyle, Illinois; West Sacramento, California, and Beardstown, Illinois.

The companies have enjoyed a steady growth and have made great progress in their field of business since their beginning.

At the present time the Corporations deeply mourn the loss of their Founder and President. We feel the most fitting tribute and memorial that can be built in honor of him is to carry on and continue to build the firms at the same high level of business ethics as heretofore.

### THE MON-CLAIR GRAIN AND SUPPLY CO.

Formerly the Monroe Grain and Supply Co., Columbia Farmers' Cooperative Grain Co., and Columbia Star Milling Company

The Columbia Star Mill was built in 1856 by James and William Nimerick at a cost of about \$25,000. It produced about 150 barrels of flour a day. It was built of brick four stories high on a foundation 40x50 feet. An addition was built in 1880 and another in 1882. In 1883 it produced 300 barrels of flour a day.

The warehouse was of brick, three stories high and 45 feet square. Its storage capacity was 50,000 bushels of wheat. The cooper shop connected with the mill where barrels were made to hold the flour, employed 15 men and made 300 barrels daily.

In 1857 Warnock and Wilson bought and operated the mill, until 1867 when Henry Huch and Franz Bauer bought it. They operated it in partnership until 1874 when Henry Huch bought out Mr. Bauer. Mr. Huch and later Adolph Lambrecht operated the mill until E. F. Schoening bought it in 1896. Mr. Schoening owned it and operated it until 1926 when the Columbia Farmers' Cooperative Grain purchased it with John C. Gummersheimer the manager. Its present manager for many years is Walter Reichert, and also for many years the president, Christian J. Diehl.

Under the cooperative, business grew steadily. Feed grinding and mixing became important and a grinder was added to the equipment.

Storage space was also insufficient, so in 1953 the mill and warehouse, an old Columbia landmark was razed. A large concrete storage elevator was erected. A new and modern, all concrete, office building was built with adjoining facilities for the feed and grain purchasing business.

The name of the co-op was changed in 1949 to the Monroe Grain and Supply Co., with Walter Reichert, Manager and Christian Diehl, President, again. In 1959 the Monroe Grain and Supply Co., and the Summerfield Grain Co-op of St. Clair County merged, the new name being Mon-Clair Grain and Supply Co.

The Columbia plant is installing bulk feed storage bins, the concrete base being finished and the steel work about to start.

Manager Reichert last year reported a net income of \$131,187.40. The company's net worth was \$854,876.48 as reported on Nov. 30, 1958. They handled 1,562,652 bushels of grain during the year; farm machinery sales totaled \$252,907.26. Assistant Manager Alois Pieper reported a record volume of feed sales during the past year with 4,482 tons sold.

There are ten employees at the mill.

Directors from Monroe County are: Herbert A. Mueller, Theodore Lohkamp, Harold Goeddel and Alvin Wortman. The President is Christian J. Diehl and Manager, Walter Reichert.

#### COLUMBIA AMERICAN DISTILLERS

(which previously was called the Monroe Brewery)

The Monroe Brewery was a brick building built in 1856 by John Gundlach at a cost of about \$30,000. John Gundlach, Mrs. E. H. Gundlach's grandfather and Philip Peter Gundlach, John's brother, who was Edward Gundlach's father, were partners in the Brewery until Reconstruction Days following the Civil War, when the brother Philip Peter Gundlach sold his rights in the property and moved to Belleville.

In 1883 it was operated by Klausmann Brewery Co., of south St. Louis. Its annual capacity was 6,000 barrels of beer. Underneath the building were beer caves capable of storing 3500 barrels of beer. There was also a malt house and mineral water establishment connected with the business.

A son of Philip Peter Gundlach, William, later became a partner. Following his death in 1893 the property was leased to Leonard Schoppe for six years, until 1903. In 1903 E. H. Gundlach took over, purchasing the brewery from Anna Wagner (nee Gundlach) and conducted the business for a number of years. When old machinery broke down the brewery was closed and the Revenue man, Mr. Walsh of Carlyle stood by while spoiled beer went down the drain into the Mississippi.

In 1933 came repeal of prohibition and E. H. Gundlach and a group of St. Louis men started building a new brewery. Costs of materials and construction were too high and construction was halted nearly four years. For four generations the Gundlachs had owned the property.

In 1937 a group of Belleville men desirous of owning a distillery began organization and construction of the Gundlach property and in 1941 the Columbia American Distillers began operation in this building with added facilities, and during the war made alcohol for the United States Government. They are now licensed as a distillery, but are not operating at present. They distilled different brands of whiskey.

Officers and directors are Herman Lorenz, General Manager; Wm. Tnaake, 1st Vice President; August Hess, 2d Vice President; Alois Lorenz, Secretary; Charles Menner, Treasurer. In addition to these, who serve also as directors are Edgar Hug and Hilmar Lindauer.

#### COLUMBIA NEWSPAPERS

Columbia is represented by two newspapers, The Columbia Star, which was founded by George W. Smith in May 1906, and the Monroe County Clarion, founded by Guy Haltenhof in May 1939. The oldest paper printed in Columbia was the Columbia Gazette, founded by E. H. Eliff. The first issue was in February, 1880. The office was brought to Columbia from Red Bud. Five numbers were issued when the paper suspended. The office remained closed until May 5, 1881, when it was purchased by Peter W. Baker, and from it issued the Voice of Monroe. Owing to the ill-health of Mr. Baker the paper suspended publication from Nov. 4, 1880 to May 6, 1881, when publication was resumed and continued to the close of 1882. Mr. Baker was a native of Canada. He learned the printer's trade in Cleveland, Ohio and came to Kaskaskia in 1819.

The Columbia Star changed ownership after the death of George W. Smith in April of 1924 his daughters, Miss Ernestine C. Smith and Mrs. Consuelo Volkert and C. L. Volkert took over the Columbia Star.

Harold Fischer and Roy P. Conrad established the Clarion Printing Co. in 1940 and in 1941 became the owners of the Monroe County Clarion, and at that time were also printing the Dupo Herald-Tribune. Raymond Fischer later joined the partnership.

Bryant B. Voris, George W. Miller and Roy P. Conrad in 1947 organized a corporation known as Voris, Conrad & Miller, which corporation purchased both the Monroe County Clarion and the Columbia Star, with Roy P. Conrad business manager and editor until September 1955 when Conrad became sole owner of the printing plant and newspapers. George W. Miller died in 1952 and Mrs. Miller was represented in the corporation until the sale of the Columbia plant.

Mr. Conrad was born in New Design, November 19, 1910, the son of the late Gustav Conrad and Mrs. Amanda Heck Conrad. He began his printing career in the Waterloo Republican after the family moved to Waterloo, at the age of 14, and has been engaged in the trade for 35 years.

He married Georgianne Reis of Saint Louis who is a graduate of Saint Louis School of Nursing.

The family lived in Waterloo until 1953 when they purchased the Edward Schmidt home on North Metter and moved to Columbia.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad have eight children, William P., who is employed at the plant after having spent three years in the U. S. Navy; Michael G., in the Navy at Chincoteague, Virginia; Mary Kathryn, a student at Saint Teresa Academy; David a student at St. Peter and Paul high school, Waterloo. John and Louise are students at Immaculate Conception School and Stephen and Lisa, below school age.

The family are all members of Immaculate Conception Church.

Mr. Conrad is a past president and charter member of the Columbia Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Waterloo Council 1334 Knights of Columbus, Faithful Navigator Elect of the Fourth Degree Assembly, Mascoutah Typographical Union No. 443, Columbia Gymnastic Association, past president of Immaculate Conception Holy Name Society. In 1953 he was awarded the George Khoury Award for meritorious service rendered the Khoury Baseball Association.

## HENRY WEILBACHER AND SONS, INC.

Leo A. Weilbacher, Sr., manager of Henry Weilbacher and Sons, Inc., began his business career with the Columbia Mercantile Co. in 1909, now occupied by Weilbachers Uptown Grocery. Hy. Weilbacher and his family started business in February of 1914 with an ice cream parlor located then where George Van Luik now lives. Groceries, dry goods, hardware, paints and household utensils were added later. Mr. and Mrs. Weilbacher, Leo, Cornelius, Elmer, Mary and Josephine all helped in the store. A larger business became a necessity so the Pfeffer Store Building, then the Columbia Mercantile Co., was purchased in 1921. In 1922 the stock of the Columbia Mercantile Co. was absorbed by Weilbachers and they moved to this location.

Leo Weilbacher and his wife, nee Lee Huhn, were firm believers in the efficacy of advertising. Their belief was justified and by 1928 the building was too small, and they purchased a site at Main and Locust streets, its present location. This site of old was called the "Phelps Corner," later it was owned by George B. Schoening. By 1929 the new store was finished and opened to the public.

In 1926 the force was enlarged to twelve employees, including Urban Schmidt, Julius Kuehner and Laura Kremmel and members of the Weilbacher family. An appliance store was planned in 1941, but due to difficulties during war years construction was postponed. However in April of 1948 construction began on the appliance store and in June, 1948 it opened.

In November of 1941 Henry Weilbacher passed away and Leo Weilbacher, Sr. was called upon to take over the leadership of the store in which capacity he serves today. In 1958 a modern super-market was erected on the former James Warnock property on Main street adjoining the main store. A very large parking lot offers convenience to shoppers. At this time Weilbachers' employees number regularly about 40 and in peak times, up to 50.

## COLUMBIA KOMMUNITY STORE

The Columbia Kommunity Store was organized in 1920 by Mrs. Elizabeth Vogt as a small confectionery, and has remained in the same location since the opening day. Mrs. Vogt's husband, the late Lorenz A. Vogt, was a school teacher in the Columbia school and in the Columbia area. He continued teaching while Mrs. Vogt operated the store.

In 1925 an addition was built to the store and groceries and dry goods added. In the years that followed the Vogt children, Alfred, Herbert, Ardel, Marie, Agnes and Edward, all at one time or another were employed in the store. In later years the daughters married and Herbert J. Vogt established his own business, the Columbia Grain and Seed Co. The store was enlarged in 1927 and 1930. In 1946 Alfred and Edward Vogt purchased the business from their mother and the store became an IGA Supermarket with self-service. The brothers operated the store until 1953 when Alfred Vogt passed away. Upon his death his wife, Mrs. Magdalen Vogt, and her two daughters, Jeanette and Mrs. William Hannon and Edward Vogt and members of his family have been the proprietors.

On April 1, 1959 Edward Vogt became the sole owner of the store. He is assisted by his son James and daughters Carol and Judy; Jeanette Vogt, Alphonse Vogt, Martin Oexner, Bertha Acker, Louis Osick and Adolph Steppig, Jr. The name of the store remains the Columbia Kommunity Store.

## KRUSE CHEVROLET COMPANY

The Kruse Chevrolet Company was organized by Mr. Arthur Kruse in August 1932, and has been under the same management ever since. It is located at 431 North Main on the corner of Main and Monroe Streets. Mr. Kruse has been selling Chevrolet Cars and Trucks, Buicks, Standard Oil Products, Goodyear Tires and many other widely advertised items throughout these twenty-seven years.

The Kruse Chevrolet Company started out during the depression with only Mr. Kruse and three other employees and has since that time grown many times its size. His records show that he has sold thousands of Chevrolet Cars and Trucks and many more used cars, actually more than are in this area now. At the present time Mr. Kruse is active in his business and has nineteen employees engaged in selling or servicing automobiles.

Following are the people who are employed by him: Mrs. Evelyn Ludwig Schnell, Wilbur Ludwig, Oliver Riechmann, Oliver Hoffmann, Albert Josten, Richard Roos, Harold Stumpf, Bernard Roeder, Joseph Tebbenhof, Herman Huch, Earl Kruse, Ted Hankammer, Glenn Bequette, Mrs. Virginia Buehler, Harry Breitenstein, Jr., Melvin Hoffmann, Bill Schaeffer and Harry Sandhagen of St. Louis who has been the company auditor since the business began. The years of service for the above employees amounts to approximately 222 years for the same company.

Mr. Kruse is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Casper Kruse and has lived in the vicinity of Columbia all his life. At present time his home is at 344 West Liberty Street. He was married on October 3, 1933, to Miss Thekla Roos, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Roos of Millstadt. They have 3 children—Earl who is employed with his father, Margaret Ann who is a student at St. Louis University and Rosemary a pupil at Immaculate Conception School. His daughter, Margaret Ann, is a candidate for the "Miss Columbia" contest being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce as a centennial feature.

Mr. Kruse and his staff of workers hope to continue serving the public for many years to come.

## COLUMBIA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The Columbia Development Co., Incorporated recently formed and incorporated with the State of Illinois, has purchased Cascade Hills Subdivision from the G. and B. Realty Company of St. Louis.

The G. and B. Company purchased the tract of land some time ago from Fred Bruenig for construction of homes, but the project was halted after some grading was done. The area consists of approximately 87 acres and is all in the city limits of Columbia with access to city water, sewer, natural gas, city fire protection and police protection.

Officers of the company are Herbert Schueler, president; Herman G. Friedrich, vice president; and William H. Cash, secretary-treasurer.

Plans for the new homes include 2 and 3 bedroom brick veneer houses and are expected to be in the \$15,500 class for 2 bedrooms and \$17,500 for 3 bedrooms. All homes will have concrete basements, hardwood floors in all rooms except kitchen and bath which will have tile floors, kitchen cabinets space, double bowl sink and all will be plastered throughout.





**MAYOR AND MRS. HENRY JOHN KUNZ**

**BELOW MAYOR AND MRS. HENRY N. KUNZ ON THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING DAY**



## **HENRY J. KUNZ, SR.**

Henry John Kunz, Sr., served as mayor of Columbia, and he also served as a member of the town board. He was born in Zurich, Switzerland on June 10, 1847. He came to this country in 1852 when he was five with his parents, coming by way of New Orleans. The family settled in St. Louis where Henry John Kunz learned the cigar making trade. On September 21, 1869, he was married to Miss Emelie Steffenauer and located on the old Steffenauer farm, afterwards the Gross place, then Hills Castle and now owned by the Moallankamps. In 1870 the family moved to Columbia where he lived until his untimely death in 1898. He was a successful business man and he built a large, comfortable home on Centerville Road in Columbia. He was prominent in public affairs and served on the school board for a number of years. He was frank and fearless and made an excellent mayor and public servant. Mr. and Mrs. Kunz had eight children, four of them passing on in their early youth. The surviving children are Minnie, now Mrs. Joseph Weisenstein of Belleville, Emilie Julia Lotz of Waterloo, widow of Julius Lotz; and Bertha Anna Kunz now Mrs. Harry Arnin. A son, Henry N. Kunz died March 30, 1943. He was a member of the A. O. U. W., Turnverein, the Fire Company, the Odd Fellows and St. Paul's Evangelical Church. Columbians deeply mourned the passing of these exemplary citizens.

## **HENRY N. KUNZ**

Henry N. Kunz served as Mayor of Columbia from April 19, 1904 to April 1909.

He served during the transition period when Columbia was emerging from its role of a sleepy little country town to a modern small city.

Henry N. Kunz was born on July 17, 1870, in New Hanover precinct, a son of Henry John Kunz and his wife Emelie, nee Steffenauer. His father, Henry, came from Switzerland. Henry N. Kunz, Jr. married Miss Ida Niemeier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Niemeier. They had four children, Robert, Hilda, now Mrs. William Kassing of St. Louis, Florence, wife of Oliver C. Breidecker of East St. Louis; one son died in infancy, and Robert C. Kunz, his oldest son, died in 1958.

The picture shown was taken on Mr. and Mrs. Kunz's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Through the years with his good wife at his side, counseling and helping him, Mr. Kunz had become one of Columbia's outstanding citizens. He was a self-made man. As a boy he worked at the old M. and O. Depot as a telegrapher. He was the bookkeeper at the Huch mill which at that time served as a bank. He was President of the First National Bank and a director. As mayor, he was progressive and the city showed much progress during his tenure of office. Our first concrete sidewalks, much needed, were one of his projects.

He was president of the school board, helped organize the Columbia Commercial Club, and the Monroe County Bankers Association; a Turner, and a charter member of the Monroe County Title and Abstract Co.

He was active in his church, the St. Paul Evangelical Church, was president of the Church Council, and president of the Church Brotherhood.

He was active in Masonic circles, being master of the lodge for many years, a Shriner, and a permanent contributing member of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, St. Louis.

Far-seeing, he was an active member of the Regional Planning Assn. He also was secretary-treasurer of the old Christian Welfare Hospital.

He died on March 30, 1943, after a long, busy and useful life.





MAYOR AND MRS FRED G. RAPP ON THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING DAY

#### FRED G. RAPP

Fred G. Rapp, Mayor of Columbia, Illinois from 1909 to 1933 born in Central, Illinois, December 6, 1871, the son of Rev. and Mrs. John T. Rapp. He came to Columbia in 1890 after receiving his education in Waterloo.

The above picture of former Mayor and Mrs. Fred G. Rapp was taken on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Fred G. Rapp and Miss Lydia Schneider were married on April 26, 1896 at St. Paul Evangelical Church, Columbia. Mr. Rapp was mayor of Columbia for 24 consecutive years. During his administration a water and sewer system was put in and many improvements made in the streets. In fact, the city was just beginning to change from a sleepy little village to a hustling small city.

Mayor Rapp had the happy faculty of making friends and of selling Columbia. His objective, as he so often stated in the addresses he made, was to foster religious and political toleration among our citizens. He explained that we have in Columbia the advantages of the friendly, hospitable country town, and yet the pleasure of living in the St. Louis metropolitan area with its many cultural advantages.

Both the press and the radio recognized Columbia as an unusual city — a city as Mr. Rapp christened it, of gardens and homes, with a reputation of good government that was, and is, the despair of Egypt, as Southern Illinois is called.

Mr. Rapp and his son Walter were heads of the Fred

G. Rapp and Son Insurance Agency. Mr. Rapp was a teacher by profession with an insurance agency on the side. He taught for eighteen years at the Mueller School, but gave up teaching when the company he represented made him district agent in Monroe and adjoining counties, reaching from Cairo to Jacksonville.

As Mr. Rapp sold insurance he sold Columbia. His friends were legion. Once three street cars brought St. Louis business men, at Mr. Rapp's invitation, to Columbia, to get acquainted and help us with our school picnic. Their hands joined forces with ours, and to use an old cliché, "a good time was had by all."

Mr. Rapp was a member of the Board of Education for thirty years, serving as its secretary for twenty-nine years. He helped organize the Columbia Commercial Club and was its president. His church affiliation was the St. Paul Evangelical Church and he served as superintendent of the Sunday School for thirty years, and was a member of the pension board.

He was very active in Masonic circles, a member of Columbia Lodge 474 A. F. and A. M., the Mississippi Valley Consistory, the Eastern Stars and a life member of the Shrine Hospital. He was a member of the Jefferson Barracks Bridge Association and the Regional Planning Association. He was the head of the Columbia Red Cross for thirty years. He died at the age of 80 after a two day illness. His lovely wife, Lydia, died several years later. She was his helpmeet in every way, loved and respected for her charity, her work in the community and her practical Christianity.





MAYOR AND MRS. ALBERT C. METTER

Mayor Albert Charles Metter was born in Sugar Loaf Township, St. Clair County on September 22, 1895, a son of Charles and Maria Metter, nee Doerr.

He was educated in the Metter School and Belleville Township High School. His early life was spent on the Metter farm, which has been in the family for six generations.

He served as an Infantry First Sergeant in France in World War I for two years.

After the war he attended Dodge's Institute of Telegraphy and Railway Accounting at Valparaiso, Indiana; Western Union Telegraph Company Managers School at Niles, Michigan; La Salle Extension University at Chicago and City College of Law and Finance, St. Louis. In 1930 he became a Registered Practitioner before the Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D. C.

In 1923 he was married to Cora M. Baltz, daughter of Leonard H. and Caroline Baltz, nee Arras of Columbia. They have one daughter, Florence, wife of Clifford Haberl, and one grandson, Eugene Haberl of Columbia.

During his industrial career Mr. Metter was associated with the Western Union Telegraph Company; the Pennsylvania R. R. Company and the Frisco R. R. Company, St. Louis.

Since 1928 he has been the General Purchasing Agent and General Traffic Manager of the Midwest Rubber Reclaiming Company, Monsanto, Illinois and functions in the same capacity for the branch plants at Barberton, Ohio; Chester, Penn. and Paramount, Cal.

Mr. Metter is a life long member of United Church of Christ; has served as president of the Church Council and vice president of Southern Illinois Churchmen's Brotherhood Federation.

He is a 32d degree Mason and a Shriner; a member of Columbia Lodge A. F. and A. M. No. 474; Scottish Rite bodies and Anad Temple, East St. Louis; member of Monroe Chapter 597 Order of the Eastern Star; and a permanent contributing member of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, St. Louis.

In 1920 Mr. Metter helped organize Columbia American Legion Post 581, and in 1923 and 24 served as post commander. He holds a 40 year continuous membership in the Legion. He served as local, county and district grave

registrar, and was a member of the State Grave Registration Department for five years; in 1935 he was appointed chairman. He sponsored a Grave Registration bill which was brought before the State Legislature. It is now a law. Similar laws were adopted in several other states. He is a member of Voiture 40 and 8 and Egyptian Post Commander's Club of southern Illinois. In 1923 under Legion sponsorship he became a Scoutmaster and served for several years.

During World War II Governor Dwight H. Green appointed him Monroe County Director of the Illinois State War Council of Defense, and in this capacity served three years.

Mr. Metter was one of the original Illinois civic and business leaders in the promotion, location and construction of the Jefferson Barracks Bridge across the Mississippi, connecting Illinois and Missouri. He served as 1st vice president of the original Lindbergh Bridge Association and its successor, the present Jefferson Barracks Bridge Association at the time of its dedication on December 9, 1914. Mr. Metter was president of the Bridge Association from 1947-49 and is at present a member of the executive board.

In 1930 when Columbia's municipal waterworks started with water shortages due to droughts, Mr. Metter was elected alderman for two terms. April 18, 1933 he was elected Mayor. He is now serving his eighth term, having served consecutively for twenty-six years.

During his administration the City Code of Ordinances were revised; a new accounting system was installed, and many important public improvements were constructed and placed into operation.

Mr. Metter serves on the Board of Directors of the Columbia Centennial Association; is a member of the Board of Directors of the Belleville Memorial Hospital; member of the Chamber of Commerce, Turners, National Industrial Traffic League, Washington, D. C., Transportation Trowel Club of St. Louis; National Association of Purchasing Agents; St. Louis Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Manufacturers Association. He is also chairman of the Monroe County-St. Louis Planning Commission, Chairman General Traffic Committee, Rubber Reclaimers Association, New York and vice president of the St. Louis-East St. Louis Traffic Conference.



COLUMBIA CENTENNIAL PAGEANT COMMITTEE PRESENTS

## HAIL, COLUMBIA

IN 10 ACTS

PROLOGUE

ACT I WHITESIDE STATION (1788-1795)

ACT II HOUSE RAISING 1795

ACT III KASKASKIA TRAIL

ACT IV EARLY CULTURAL INFLUENCES

ACT V THE GERMAN SETTLERS

ACT VI FIRST COUNCIL MEETS (1859)

ACT VII TURNVEREIN (1866)

ACT VIII COLUMBIA DAY AT THE WORLD'S FAIR 1904

ACT IX SHOP AND GOSSIP

ACT X WE CHERISH OUR FREEDOM

FINALE

**July 3 and 4, 1959**

**AT 8:30 P. M.**

BETWEEN LOCUST AND WHITESIDE STREETS  
COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS



PAGEANT COMMITTEE: B. D. Middleton, Chairman, Uhl O. Sackman, Mrs. Ralph Mathews, George (Jack) Brucker, Mrs. Fred Henckler, Miss Dolores Fiege, Walter Friedrich,

Frederick C. Young, Mrs. Gerard Dundon, Mrs. B. D. Middleton, Walter Giffhorn, Jr. and L. A. Weilbacher, Jr.



AN EAGLE EYE'S VIEW OF COLUMBIA



## Columbia Families . . .

One hundred years of the history of Columbia would be incomplete and unsatisfying if the life stories of pioneer settlers and their children were not chronicled.

We regret that every Columbian's family history could not have been included, but that was, obviously, impossible. Though all are equally important we could not include them all because of lack of space.

In the main we selected the history of families from which some phase of the history of Columbia could be interpreted, taking in as many family groups as possible.

Our sincere thanks goes to all who helped us in any way. We are especially grateful for the many valuable old history and atlases, for the many pictures lent to us, and for the unfailing patience our long-suffering friends exhibited when we asked for information. We wish especially to thank the Mayor and City fathers for lending us their century of records, and to all organizations who let us peruse their minutes. It was our purpose to use official records whenever possible. Even with this care in writing, there will be errors, for which we crave your indulgence. The history was long and the time to prepare it, short.

CONSUELO J. VOLKERT, Historian and Editor.  
ERNESTINE C. SMITH, Assistant Historian.

### DR. A. H. MAEYS

Dr. A. H. Maeys is the son of William Maeys and his wife, Margaret, nee Studt. Dr. Maeys' grandfather was George Maeys, whose wife was Elizabeth Reub. He came from the City of Oggerheim, in New Bavaria, where he was born in 1828. He came to America with his family, landing at New York, and settling in Pennsylvania in the Cumberland Valley. He and his family came to Monroe County, locating a mile and a half southwest of Columbia, moving later to the Lawson farm in the Bottom near Columbia. The high water in 1844 flooded out the family and they moved to a farm near Maeystown. There the father, George Maeys, died leaving behind a family of six children. Jacob, the oldest boy, took over and kept the family together until such time as they could get on their own feet.

William Maeys was a storekeeper in Maeystown. He was the brother of Jacob Maeys who founded Maeystown.

Dr. Maeys is a graduate of the Barnes School of Medicine. He located at Clayton, Missouri.

He enlisted in the United States Army as a medical officer in World War I in 1917, was a 1st Lieutenant, and was assigned to the British army. He saw front line service in some of the severe battles of the war. He served for twenty-five months. He served with honor and distinction and was awarded the British Military Cross for valor and was advanced to the rank of major.

In September of 1919 he went to Maeystown where he opened an office. In October of 1933 he came to Columbia and has resided here ever since.

He was married to Miss Anna Hirsch, daughter of Gustav and Catherine Hirsch. To this union three children were born—one boy, Billy, passing on at the age of two years and seven months. Their daughter, Jean, is a teacher in California. Their son, Al, is a law graduate of St. Louis University.

Dr. and Mrs. Maeys are faithful members of the United Church of Christ. He is also a Mason and Shriner.

### ELMER ALBERT JANSON

Elmer Albert Janson, member of the Columbia Centennial Historical Committee, is the son of Valentine and Mary Janson nee Friedrich. In 1835 John Beckerle and Valentine Janson, brothers-in-law came to the Columbia area from Hesse Darmstadt. This Valentine Janson was Elmer's great grandfather. In Germany he married Elizabeth nee Seibert and came to Monroe county to Section 26 in the Shoemaker School District.

There were seven children born to this union, John, born in Monroe county in 1839. John when grown up married Eliza, daughter of John and Hannah Weibacher. John and Eliza had five sons and four daughters: John, Mary, Peter, Elizabeth, Catherine, Philip, Christian, Emma and Herman. The son Philip, and Elizabeth Janson were Elmer's paternal grandparents; Adam A. and Louise Friedrich his maternal grandparents.

Elmer's grandfather came to Monroe County in 1853 and his grandmother in 1852. They farmed in Section 26.

Elmer was born in Columbia, educated in the Immaculate Conception School and attended high school in Columbia. He belongs to Immaculate Conception Church. He was city alderman from 1941-54. He is a past president and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

He is employed as the Clothing manager of Weibacher's Store, having been in their employ for 26 years.

He is married to Regina Besse Janson and they have been blessed with seven children: James, Edward, Robert, Marilyn, Carolyn, Joan and Jean. Elmer has four brothers

and sisters: Milton Janson of Columbia; William of Millstadt, Miss Lillian Janson of Columbia and Mrs. Milly Koch of St. Louis.

The Jansons were vitally interested in education — Valentine Janson serving on the school board of Shoemaker School in 1870, in 1871, 1873 and 1874, Philip Janson, Elmer's grandfather serving in this capacity and in 1876-90 and 1896-97 Valentine Janson served there too. Schools were in session in these days only from October to April to give farm boys a chance to work on the farm.

### FRED WILLIAM WEINEL

Fred William Weinel, member of the Centennial Historical Committee, was born in Columbia. He was the oldest son of August F. Weinel and Bertha Grosse Weinel.

The Weinels and the Grosses were early business people of Columbia. A. F. Weinel and Mr. Grosse were proprietors of the old Franklin Inn, the old name of the Juengling Tavern. Under the Grosse and Weinel management it was known as the Buck Tavern. Deer Antlers were placed over the sign. It was the stopping place for the old Stage Coach and it was known all over the Kaskaskia Trail for its fine hospitality. Later A. F. Weinel started a lumber yard and a livery stable in Columbia which grew and prospered. A son, Ernst A. Weinel, started the E. A. Weinel Hardware Company, and it too, grew and prospered. After his death another son, L. Philip Weinel became the manager. It was sold to Alois Riebeling who conducts the business now.

The Weinel family was famous for their fine hospitality and the beauty of their home and gardens. They were from Germany and reflected the best of German culture.

William Weinel attended school here and the Manual Training School of Washington University of St. Louis. Mr. Weinel is a member of the United Church of Christ, Columbia, a member of Columbia Lodge No. 474 AF and AM since 1905, also the Mississippi Valley Consistory at East St. Louis and Ainal Temple Mystic Shrine and Monroe Chapter 597 O. E. S.

He is president of the August F. Weinel Lumber Co. which was started by August F. Weinel in 1875. He is also president of the Dupo Lumber and Hardware Co. of Dupo; he assisted in organizing the Columbia Building and Loan Assn. in 1914 and has been a director thereof ever since. He has been the secretary since 1933. He is past president of the Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers Assn. and also past director of the Illinois Savings and Loan League.

Three children were born to the union, August F. Weinel, who graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1936 and reached the rank of Commander. He gave his life for his country in the Pacific area in 1943 during World War II. A daughter, Marian Weinel, graduated from Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa and is married to Andrew P. Burgess. Mr. Burgess is now a secretary and manager of the August F. Weinel Lumber Co. Mr. Burgess was a Commander in the U. S. Navy during World War II. Ellyn Weinel graduated from William Woods College at Fulton, Mo. and DePauw University at Greencastle, Ind., and is married to Dr. August G. Swanson and lives in Seattle, Wash. Dr. Swanson is a Harvard University graduate and served as a flight surgeon in the U. S. Navy.

The William Weinels live in a beautiful country home near Columbia, formerly the property of the Proctors. The house, a stately Georgian country home is built high on the hills overlooking Columbia and the lovely countryside. Mr. Weinel had always admired the site of the Proctor home, and he is happy to be able to reside there and enjoy the beautiful scenes surrounding his home.



A. F. WEINEL LUMBER YARD



GUS TUNZE'S SALOON



E. A. WEINEL HARDWARE CO.



POST OFFICE IN ARNIN'S STORE



COLUMBIA STAR MILL



EXTERIOR OF THE MILL SALOON NOW THE  
CLARION PRINTING CO.

## VICTOR BREIDECKER

Victor Breidecker, member of the Centennial Historical Committee, was born in Columbia, the son of Charles Breidecker and his wife Laura, nee Harres. The Breideckers were an old Columbia family coming here from Germany. Charles taught school here and also ran a printing plant. He was an excellent teacher though a stern disciplinarian. He was married to Laura Harres. They had four children, Miss Alfrida, Miss Hulda, Oliver and Victor. Oliver is vice president of the First National Bank in East St. Louis and a civic leader there. Miss Hulda is the bookkeeper at the Dupo State Savings Bank, while Victor Breidecker is with the Lewin Mathes Co. division of Cerro de Pasco Corporation, Monsanto, Illinois.

Victor attended school here, grade and high school, Brown's Business College at East St. Louis and Jefferson College of St. Louis. His paternal grandparents were Christian H. Breidecker and Catherine German Breidecker. His maternal grandparents were George Adam Harres and Gertrude Scheuermann Harres. All came here from Germany and all were early settlers. Gertrude Breidecker was the sister of Henry Scheuermann who had a tavern here in what was the Wm. Vogt store. Christian Breidecker was a business man in early Columbia, conducting a store and serving as Columbia's postmaster.

Victor Breidecker married Miss Nelda Faus of near Maestown. She died in 1939. They have two children, Kay Hulda, wife of Dale Prediger of Carbondale, Illinois and Private Karl Lewis Breidecker who is with the U. S. Army at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Mr. Breidecker is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ, is a past secretary of the church consistory and treasurer of St. Paul's Church Brotherhood.

He is a Mason, a member of Columbia lodge, also of Scottish Rite bodies and Ainal Temple A. A. ONMS.

## THE WILLIAM VOGT FAMILY

William Vogt, Jr., was born in Stookey township, St. Clair Co., Illinois, the son of William and Julia Vogt, nee Waelti. The Vogt family was of Swiss origin, but migrated to Germany, close to Prussia. They were landowners there, but the lure of the new country of America beckoned them and they sold their land and came to America, landing at New Orleans and finding their way to Stookey Township in St. Clair County. Here they bought five quarter sections of land. This land remained in the Vogt family for over a hundred years but was sold in 1941.

Mr. Vogt worked on farms in his youth, then in the coal mines as an engineer. He married Miss Henrietta Boemer of Millstadt. Two boys were born of this union. The mother died and two weeks later the younger boy died. The other lad survived—Otto H. Vogt of St. Louis.

Mr. Vogt remarried—Miss Sophia Diesel of Millstadt becoming his second wife. They moved to Columbia where Mr. Vogt found employment as an engineer in the Lam-breicht-Huch Mill where he learned to do plumbing and heating work.

In 1893 he became a pioneer in the merchandising business and opened a big department store where you could "Buy anything from a needle to a threshing machine". He built a small store at the corner of Main and Church streets and as business expanded Mr. Vogt's brother, George, who lived at Belleville, came to Columbia to help his brother in the store. Here he met and married Miss Emma Schneider, member of an old pioneer family. Three children blessed this union: Mrs. Carrie Bollinger and Mrs. Viola O'Brian of Pittsburgh, Penna. and George F. Vogt, Jr., of Grand Rapids, Mich.

When Mr. Vogt began business, Columbia was a fur center and many residents depended on trapping as their

livelihood. Trappers traded furs for supplies. Mr. Vogt was successful, built a beautiful home and was active in business and social circles in Columbia. He died at the ripe old age of 90. Four daughters and three sons survive: Otto H. of St. Louis, Milton of California, William of Carrollton, Mrs. Sophia Sondel of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Mrs. Virginia Schuette of St. Louis, Mrs. Esther Joyce of St. Louis and Mrs. Julia Haller of Columbia. A granddaughter, Mrs. Florine Burks lives in Columbia in the old Vogt residence.

## MRS. WAYNE COMPTON

Mrs. Wayne Compton, nee Annabelle Weible, is a member of the Centennial History committee. She is descended from an old Columbia family. She is the daughter of Edward T. Weible, who was born near Millstadt in 1857, and Miss Anna Wilson who was born in Columbia in 1864. Mrs. Compton's paternal grandparents were John Weible and Jane Townsend Weible of Ohio. Her maternal grandparents were Louis N. Wilson, member of an old and prominent Columbia family and Emily Morrison Wilson, born in Prairie du Long Precinct, Monroe county. Mrs. Wilson was the sister of the late Col. William R. Morrison, who was once a candidate for President of the United States. The Wilson family came originally from Ireland, then migrated to Maryland and Kentucky, and finally settled in Illinois.

Mrs. Compton's father was principal of the Columbia grade school for thirty-five years. He also had a photographic studio and during the summer months was a salesman for the American Text Book Co.

Her mother was one of the first women school teachers in Monroe county, teaching in the Etter and Sand Bank schools. Her aunt, Julia Wilson, now Mrs. Bert Diver, taught in Sand Bank school, walking back and forth every day, rain or shine, in mud or dust. Teaching was the profession Mrs. Compton's family followed, her mother, father, uncles and sister all being teachers. Her grandfather strved as sheriff of Monroe county for many years. They were all unpretentious and unassuming law-abiding citizens.

Mrs. Compton was originally a member of the old Methodist Episcopal church here, but when the services were discontinued she united with St. Paul United Church of Christ. She is past president and the current treasurer of the Columbia Woman's Club, Guardian and Treasurer of Job's Daughters Bethel 65, Member of the DeMolay's Booster's Club and the Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Compton for many years has been employed by the Wein-el Hardware Co. in a secretarial position.

## MRS. MELVIN GASSER

Mrs. Melvin Gasser, nee Mildred Lee Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lee Roberts of Dyersburg, Tennessee, was born at Hurricane Hill, Dyer County, Tennessee. She received her education in the public and high school of Dyersburg. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Centennial Association and the Centennial Style Show committee chairman.

In fact she was untiring in developing the Style Show and it was largely through her efforts that the Style Show proved the great success it was.

She studied Interior Decorating and for fifteen years she has followed this profession.

She is a collector of fine antiques, furniture and other objects of art. The home she and her husband purchased is over 100 years old and is a fine example of the German Classic Revival style. It formerly belonged to the Rohm family.

Mrs. Gasser is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her husband works under civil service, being a railroad mail clerk.

## MRS. HARRY ARNIN

Mrs. Harry Arnin, nee Bertha Anna Kunz, was born in Columbia the daughter of the late Henry John Kunz, who was at one time mayor of Columbia, as was his son, Henry N. Kunz. Mr. Kunz, the senior, was born in Zurich, Switzerland and came to this country when he was five. Emilie Kunz, his wife, nee Steffenauer, was born in Carondelet, then a city in its own right, now a part of St. Louis. At the age of five she and her family moved to Columbia. Mr. Kunz lived in St. Louis until he was 22, met and married the beautiful Emilie Steffenauer and came to Columbia to live on the Steffenauer farm, later Hills and now Mollankamp's. Later they moved to Columbia where Mr. Kunz became a cigar-maker, making them and then going on the road to sell them.

They had four children, Emilia, who married Julius Lotz of Columbia; Minnie, who married Joseph Weisenstein and the subject of our sketch who married Harry Arnin, son of Jos. M. Arnin and Henry N. Kunz. Jos. Arnin was the postmaster here for many years and conducted a general store. He also served on the Town board and the school board and many similar civic organizations for the betterment of Columbia. His sons Harry and Arthur were clerks in the postoffice. Arthur later became the postmaster, and his sister Olivia Arnin served as clerk for him.

Mrs. Arnin's maternal grandparents were John and Anna Steffenauer, nee Huber. The paternal grandparents lived in Switzerland.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Arnin reside in the lovely home built by Mr. Kunz. Bertha has inherited the graciousness of her mother. They have two children, Marjorie, wife of Monroe Trost, and Walther H. Arnin at home.

Mrs. Arnin is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ, the Women's Guild, the Sewing Circle of the Church and Monroe Chapter 597 Order of Eastern Star.

## B. D. MIDDLETON

B. D. Middleton, chairman of the Pageant committee of the Columbia Centennial Association, is superintendent of Columbia Unit No. 4 grade and high schools, coming here June 4, 1951. Mr. Middleton was born at Iuka, Illinois, the son of T. J. Middleton and his wife, Mary Catherine, nee Mulvaney. His ancestors came from Wales, migrating to South Carolina, thence to Tennessee and then to Iuka, Illinois. Iuka was then called Middleton because in 1851 the section where the village was situated was deeded to the subject's great-grandfather, John B. Middleton. Later his grandfather Daniel J. Middleton purchased the land, together with his brother Alfred. The name was changed to Iuka to avoid a clash of names.

Mr. Middleton is a direct descendant of Arthur Middleton, who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was married to Mildred Chapman and they have one daughter, Kim, wife of Dr. R. D. Rawson of Tucson, Arizona. Mrs. Middleton attended Southern Illinois University and taught for fourteen years in Marion county schools. She is a graduate of Salem, Illinois high school.

Mr. Middleton is a member of A. F. and A. M. No. 1510; the Eastern Star; the Illinois Education Association; a life member the National Education Association; Kappa Phi Kappa; Rotary International and American Association of School Administrators.

Mr. Middleton is a graduate of Southern Illinois University with a master's degree; he also attended the University of Indiana and the University of Illinois.

He and his wife are members of the United Church of Christ having transferred here from the Methodist Church.

## JOHN MCKEE

Stewart McKee was Columbia's first mayor in 1818. There seems to be no record. Of the second mayor, John McKee, there is both record and memory, for the McKee family was prominent in Columbia in the early days.

In tracing the family history, the grandson of James found that the family name was not McKee but McKay and pronounced McKi, with the long "i".

They were of the Clan McKay and came from the highland of Scotland, high up in the Inverness region. A clan is a division of a tribe made up of "septs" — so many septs to a clan.

John McKee married Mary MacGowan. A description of him was given to the grandson, John Scott MacKie, by the late Jos. Volkert, Sr., who knew the old pioneer well. Mr. Volkert told him that John McKee was a "boss" doctor, and he asked Joseph Volkert to hold a horse which was to get treatment, while he went over to Angerer's Hotel across the street where the Breidecker Building now is. He said the doctor was a fine figure of a man, tall and broad-shouldered. The horse balked at the medicine but the doctor gave it to him by sheer force of will — and brawn. He said Mr. McKee rode a big horse, at least sixteen hands high. His office was in a barn back of the Arlington Hotel, now the Chic Shop. Mr. Volkert was a little boy then and always remembered the incident.

James McKee was a fixture here. He owned much land here. He was secretary of the Village Board for many years and a teacher in the public school here. The records kept by him were beautiful, his ornate script looking like steel engraving. He lived to be 90. He had one son, Harry, who married Louise Weinle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Weinle. They had three children, Ruth, wife of Hugh Burke of Waterloo, Edith, wife of William Grimes of Downers Grove, Illinois and John Scott MacKie of Burlingame, California. (He uses the correct form of the name). James McKee also had two daughters, Mrs. Jessie Farrell of East St. Louis, and Mrs. Mabel Elish of Springfield.

James McKee had one sister, Janet, who was a beautiful woman and whom, many said, greatly resembled Mrs. Grimes.

This is the legend of the McKee or MacKay or MacKie family, Scottish highlanders, who sought and found a brave new world.

## MRS. CLIFFORD HABERL

Mrs. Clifford Haberl, nee Florence E. Metter, is a member of the Centennial Historical Committee.

She is the daughter of Albert C. Metter and his wife Cora, nee Baltz of Columbia. She is the grand-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Metter and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Baltz. She was born in Columbia. Her ancestors came from Alsace-Lorraine and Germany.

She is married to Clifford W. Haberl and is associated with him in their business known as the Clifford W. Haberl Plumbing and Heating. She is the book-keeper and the secretary of the firm.

They have one son, Eugene, who is 10 years old.

Mrs. Haberl is a graduate of the Columbia grade and high school and Brown's Business and Secretarial School in St. Louis.

She has always been interested in Columbia's public library, being a member of the library board. She is now assistant librarian.

A member of the St. Paul Church of Christ, she is a deacon in the church and also a member of the Chancel and the Senior choir. She is an active worker in the Parent-Teachers Association and the Columbia Woman's Club. She is also an officer in Monroe Chapter 597 order of the Eastern Star.

MR. AND MRS.  
CONRAD STEFFENAUER



Front Row: Catherine Niemeier,  
Christian Niemeier, Chas. Niemeier.  
Back Row: Emma Rueck, Ida Kunz,  
Tillie Sodeman, Bertha Heinemann  
and Carrie Bollinger.



MR. AND MRS.  
CHARLES LANDGRAF

A GAY BLADE  
OF THE 1800's



## JAMES HENRY CROWE

James Henry Crowe, president of the Lions Club which is in charge of the Beards for the Centennial, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Crowe, nee Mary Frisch. There were four Crowe children: James, the oldest, the subject of this sketch; Ina Mae, Mrs. Raymond Jahr; Margie, the widow of George Menges of Belleville and Arlou, wife of Victor Reichert.

"Jimmie's" father, James P. Crowe, was a school teacher, coming from near Burksville, then later worked at the Sligo Iron Stove Co. in St. Louis. "Jimmie" worked for the Chevrolet Company at Columbia, later at St. Louis, then at Monsanto for nine years and eventually established his own business, The Jimmie Crowe Auto Repair, at his present place of business.

Jim has an interesting family background. His grandfather, James Crowe, spent his first 16 years in Ireland, going to the public schools there. When he was 16 he accompanied his parents to America and in 1871 was married to Miss Margaret Fox. They had six children: Mathias, the oldest, Catherine, Agnes, Thomas, Mary and James. Mrs. Crowe, nee Fox, was a native of Monroe county. The family were all devout Catholics. Jimmie's great-grandfather, also James Crowe, was a native of Ireland. He was born there on May 1, 1836, the son of Mathias and Catherine (Ragin) Crowe. He married in Ireland and farmed there until 1852 when he set sail for the New World. He located in Monroe county and farmed there until his death, becoming a very successful farmer. He died in 1864; his wife in 1878. They were parents of seven children: Celia, Mary, Patrick, Lawrence, Bridget, Thomas and James. James Crowe, the grandfather, was called the "White Crowe" because he was the possessor of snowy white, curly hair, and was a very distinguished looking gentleman.

Jimmie is the fourth Crowe to bear the name of James.

With the luck of the Irish, Jimmie won a goodly sum of money in a sweepstakes, and with true Irish warm-heartedness, gave most of it to worthy charities and to churches, that is, what Uncle Sam did not get by way of taxes.

Mrs. Crowe, nee Flora Weilbacher, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Weilbacher nee Elizabeth Leichtenheimer. The Weilbacher family is a pioneer family of this area, this branch of the family being prosperous farmers, who lived and farmed at the farm where now Richard Weilbacher farms, on the outskirts of Columbia. Mrs. Crowe's father and mother purchased the beautiful old Pfeffer home and retired and afterward Jim and Flora bought the home. It has been modernized and redecorated and is still a show place, sturdy and beautiful after many years.

The Crows have four children: John Patrick (Jack); Mary Louise, a Miss Columbia Centennial candidate; James Joseph, the fifth James in the family and Jo Ann.

## MRS. IRENE HABERL

Mrs. Irene Haberl, daughter of Fred and Catherine Dollar, is a member of the Centennial Historical Committee. She was born in Columbia. She is the wife of Frank Haberl. The Haberls have four children, Vernon J., Howard, Clifford W. and Marcella (Mrs. Alfred Crowder).

Mrs. Haberl's ancestors came from Germany and Bohemia. Her grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. John A. Pfeffer, nee Scherrer. The Pfeffers were a well-known Columbia family for John A. was in business for many years.

The father of John A. Pfeffer came from Candel, Bavaria, Germany by way of New Orleans in 1832. He came to the Illinois country and cleared a tract of land near Centerville, which he farmed. He worked on steamboats which plied the Mississippi, and became an engineer in a distillery. He married Margaret Scherrer who came from Alsace-Lorraine. Two of fourteen children survived to maturity — they being John A. and Mrs. Catherine Dollar.

John A. Pfeffer, conducted a store and a saloon. As this business grew the sons were taken into the business and it became the John A. Pfeffer and Sons Store. Later, under other management, it became the Columbia Mercantile Co.

John A. married Johanna K. Funk who was born in New Orleans. The following were their children, except for those who died in infancy: John Joseph, Joseph Fred, Emil F., Peter A., Mary, Theodore, Anna, Charles, Louis and Katherine, twins, and Louise, who is Mrs. David Jenkins, and who lives in East St. Louis. Being generous and kind people they adopted two children, Elizabeth Smith who became the wife of Frank Riebeling, and Johanna Mary.

The Pfeffers were prominent in church circles, belonging to the Immaculate Conception Church. Mr. Pfeffer for many years was a member of the Town Board and also the school board.

The Pfeffers built a beautiful brick home where they did much entertaining. They were very hospitable people and gracious hosts and hostesses. Their home is now owned by James Crowe.

Mrs. Haberl, a niece of the Pfeffers, is a member of the Immaculate Conception Church and is a Past Regent of the Daughters of Isabella; she is a Royal Neighbor, a Past President of the American Legion Auxiliary, a member of the Mothers' and Friends' Club of her church and now president of the Altar Society. She is a hard worker for her community and her church, as is her husband, Frank Haberl.

## RUDOLPH P. BRIEGEL

Rudolph P. Briegel for many years head of the Columbia public and grade school was born June 16, 1865 in New Design Precinct. He was the son of Peter Briegel and his wife Elizabeth, nee Schrieber.

Both of his parents came from Germany and settled on a farm in New Design Precinct. The Briegels were among the first Germans to settle there.

Mr. Briegel attended Portland School which was then known as the Normal School of Monroe County. He also attended school at Waterloo for one year. He attended Mound City Commercial College at St. Louis and sessions of summer normal school.

In 1882 at the age of 16 he taught the Deer Hill School, then the Schroeder School and then the New Hanover School for four years, after which he came to Columbia and taught in the grade school. He worked at the Star Milling Company here as a bookkeeper, and in 1912 became the superintendent of the Columbia School. Under his direction Columbia established a four year recognized high school with a two year commercial department. Under his direction the school acquired a fine library.

In 1894 he married Miss Pauline Stein of Belleville. They had one daughter Mildred Lucille, wife of Frank L. Eversull.

Mr. Briegel was one of the organizers of the Eagle Electric Co. which furnished electricity for the City of

Columbia, and served as secretary for four years or until the company sold its interests to the city.

Mr. Briegel's hobby was raising fine chickens. Silver laced and white Wyandottes were his specialty, and he was the only person in Monroe County to take a prize for poultry at the St. Louis World's Fair.

He served as City Clerk of Columbia for four years and also as a Justice of the Peace.

He was first and foremost a teacher. He had a special gift for teaching the essentials. He so often said, "There must always be hewers of wood and carriers of water, and we must plan our teaching so that pupils in this category can be taught what they can use in life. The more brilliant pupils who would probably go out into the professions could follow any program but special care must be taken of the rank and file who make up most of America."

He was an excellent teacher and superintendent and an exemplary citizen.

### MRS. C. L. VOLKERT

Mrs. C. L. Volkert, nee Consuelo Joy Smith was born in West Point, Iowa. She moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Smith to Columbia in 1906. She attended Columbia public and high schools and Southern Illinois and Illinois University. She became a teacher of English and commercial subjects in Columbia high school and taught there for six years.

Mrs. Volkert was married to C. L. Volkert, son of Joseph J. and Barbara Volkert, nee Strassner. To them three children were born—Carroll Barbara (Mrs. George F. Vogt), J. L. Volkert and Margaret Volkert and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Volkert, "Mr. Dips" to most people, was born in St. Louis, moving to Columbia with his family in 1909. He was employed at the Herman Rose Drug Store for several years, then worked at Dupo for the Missouri Pacific for eleven years, resigning to assume the position of linotype operator and pressman at the Columbia Star Office. He was an Illinois State Trooper under Governor Emmerson for about four years. After prohibition he operated a tavern known as the Old Mill Buffet at Locust and Rapp. In 1941, after the death of Charles Kern in an auto accident, he became Chief of Police of Columbia, which position he now holds.

The Volkert family were pioneers of Columbia, Christian Volkert and his wife coming from Germany from Mai Kommen in the Rhine River region. They were vintners in the old country. The Strassner family came from Rheinpfalz, Germany. St. Martin-an-der-Hardt. The two families met on the ship coming to America.

"Mr. Dips's brother, Ralph, has served two terms as sheriff of Monroe County and now is assistant warden at Pontiac; his brother, Joseph J., is the City Clerk for Columbia and for a number of years was assessor and treasurer of Monroe county. His brother Elmer is foreman on the "Rip" track at Dupo and his brother August is the genial host of Monnie's Sportsman's Inn.

Mr. Volkert served for two years with the A E F in World War I, being stationed at LeMans, France in the railroad yards for the duration and after the war. He holds a continuous 40 year membership in the American Legion serving as Commander several times. He is a member of Columbia Lodge No. 474 A. F. and A. M.

Mr. Volkert's great-grandfather, Chris Trenberger of St. Louis was a cabinet maker of note. He operated a cabinet shop opposite the Old St. Louis Cathedral where he carved an altar and a beautiful Trenberger carved and embellished door for this church. The artistic bent of the family could probably be traced to this early forebear.

### THE RAUCH FAMILY

Under the spreading chestnut tree

The village smithy stands,  
The smith a mighty man was he  
With large and sinewy hands  
And the muscles of his brawny arms  
Are strong as iron bands.

What a pity the young people of Columbia will never be able to see the old blacksmith shops of the days of yore, with their "mighty" men toiling over the forge or bending down to shoe the foot of some nervous horse. It was always a delight to pass by the blacksmith shop of William, Edmund and Joseph Rauch at Locust street, peek in the door and see these stalwart men at work, each garbed in a leather apron to repel the sparks from the forge. As you passed, all three welcomed young America in hearty booming voices.

The father of these three Rauchs (Smoke, they were called, because Rauch means smoke in German), was Joseph Rauch, Sr. He was born in Wurzburg, Rhein Bayern or Bavaria July 4, 1840. When he was four years old his sisters came to America, to St. Louis, bringing Joseph, Sr. with them. He grew to manhood in St. Louis and then moved to Columbia when he was grown. In 1856 he was apprenticed to Edward Victor Heiligstedt, who had a blacksmith shop in back of his grocery store, both located on Monroe Bank property. He was married to Louisa Schumacher, sister of Mrs. Charles Schneider (Mary Schumacher) and Henry Schumacher, who lived in the John Landgraf house. Three boys were born to them, the subjects of our sketch — William, Joseph and Edmund. These boys helped their father in the blacksmith business which later was moved to Locust and South Second streets. The Schmidts, father and two sons, Arthur and John were wagon makers and these two families merged into Schmidt and Rauch. They also sold agricultural implements.

The father, Joseph, Sr. passed away April 25, 1899 at the age of 59. He had been a trustee of the village from 1879-80; from 1881-85; from 1888-90 and 1891-94, and his passing left a void in Columbia civic circles.

The boys carried on their father's work, being machinists as well as smiths. Joseph worked at the Columbia Quarry and at the Columbia Star Mill and later started a tavern where Greatting's Market now is located.

Joseph Sr. had been vitally interested in politics and took an active part in it. Following in his footsteps were Joseph Jr. and Edmund who also participated in civic, county, state and national politics. Joseph, Sr. was also a soldier in the Civil War and saw much action. William, the oldest brother was the backbone of the blacksmith business. He stayed in the business while the younger brothers branched out, Edmund to plumbing and machinist work and Joseph to the tavern.

William Rauch was married to Emma Fiege, and four children were born to them: Ella, Elmer, both of Columbia; Tillie and Adolph, the last two having passed away.

Joseph, Jr. was married to Jennie Eichmueller and five children were born to them: Hilda (Mrs. Gustav Boemer); Edwin and Joseph, deceased; Alex of St. Louis and Lou (Mrs. John Kleyer) of Columbia. Mrs. Boemer has a son M. J. New.

Edmund L. Rauch was married to Mrs. Lizzie Lindemann on September 18, 1910. Mrs. Lindemann, a widow, was the former Lizzie Osick. She had one daughter, Emma Lindemann. Emma married the son of William Rauch, Elmer G. Rauch, and they have one son, William Edward.

William Rauch was killed while on duty as a special policeman for the city on Labor Day, Sept. 1,



1924. Traffic was heavy on that day, a blinding rain storm raging, and an alarm of fire at the Columbia Quarry further complicated traffic, so Mr. Rauch went of his own accord to direct traffic at the corner of Main and Cherry. He was struck and killed by a car without lights, driven by a St. Louis man. Surely that was devotion above and beyond the call of duty on Mr. Rauch's part.

E. L. Rauch was elected trustee of the town from 1904-27 and city alderman from 1927-33. He was also the City Superintendent of the Light Plant and manager of the Cahokia Telephone Company of Duplo. He was the President of the Monroe National Bank for 30 years and has been connected with the bank as director for 39 years. He belongs to the Turners and is an honorary member of the Rotary Club. He is a member of United Church of Christ.

Elmer G. Rauch, E. L. Rauch's son-in-law and also his nephew, is employed as the East Side Agent of the St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt) railroad. Elmer's son, William Edward, is employed at McDonnell Aircraft Co. of St. Louis.

#### MRS. GERARD J. DUNDON

Mrs. Gerard J. Dundon, assistant secretary of the Centennial committee, is the wife of Dr. Gerard J. A. Dundon of Columbia. They have three children, Gerard J., Denis S. and Margaret M.

Mrs. Dundon was born in New York City, her parents being Thomas C. S. and Margaret T. McCalmont.

She is a graduate of the St. Angela Hall Academy and Maxwell Teacher's College of New York.

The Dundon family came to Prairie du Rocher where Dr. Dundon practised and later moved to Columbia in 1951.

Mrs. Dundon is an amateur artist of great ability, always in demand for projects requiring art work, because she gives so freely of her time and talents. She is also an organist of ability.

She is a member of Immaculate Conception church, a member and past president of the Columbia Woman's Club. She is past president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Past President of the Legion Auxiliary, Joseph Park Post of Prairie du Rocher, Past Secretary of Bishop Zuroweste Circle, Daughters of Isabella and Past President of the Altar Society of St. Joseph's Parish.

#### CHARLES J. GRUENINGER

Charles J. Grueninger, son of Mrs. Ida Grueninger and the late Albert Grueninger was born in Columbia, Sept. 21, 1911. He was married to Pearl C. Friedrich, the daughter of Otto Friedrich and his wife nee Schalloni. They have three children, Carl James, Mary Pearl and Marvin John. Carl James is in the service, in the Ordnance Division, stationed in Augsburg, Germany. Mary Pearl is one of the Miss Columbia candidates. She is a Junior at SS. Peter and Paul high school at Waterloo. Marvin also attends school.

Mr. Grueninger is secretary and treasurer of the Columbia Motors, Inc. on north Main Street. This flourishing business was started in 1941 as a partnership by Wm. S. Haudrich and C. J. Grueninger. It was changed to a corporation in 1948 with the following members: Wm. S. Haudrich, Florence Haudrich, C. J. Grueninger and Pearl Grueninger.

Mr. Grueninger is a member of the Immaculate Conception Church; the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly of Waterloo, Illinois; the Holy Name Society of the Catholic Church; member and Past President of the

Columbia Chamber of Commerce, member and director of the Columbia Rotary Club; member of Columbia Water and Hickory Hollow Sportsman's Clubs; member and director of the Waterloo Country Club; director of the First National Bank in Columbia; member of Illinois Auto Dealers Trade Assn.; a member of the National Auto Dealers Association; president of the Columbia Gymnastic Assn.; and a director of the Columbia Centennial Association, on which he serves as Concessions and Rules Chairman.

#### LEO A. WEILBACHER

Leo A. Weilbacher is a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbia Centennial Association, a member of the history committee and the chairman of the Miss Columbia contest. Mr. Weilbacher's family tree is most interesting tracing back to the European Thirty-Year War 1618-48. The name "Weilbacher" was coined because during the Thirty-Year War his family erected a wall (Weil-Wall) behind which the family found shelter. The whole of Europe was involved and in 1659 when a peace treaty was finally signed Germany was in ruins and the Holy Roman Empire a hollow shell.

Leo A. Weilbacher was the son of Henry and Johanna Weilbacher, nee Mueller and the grandson of Ferdinand and Bernadine Weilbacher, nee Platz. His great-grandparents were John Weilbacher and Johanna Essig; his great-great-grandparents were Adolph Weilbacher, born in 1775 and his wife Katherine Westerberger from Amien, Germany or France as the fortunes of war dictated.

Leo's grandmother was Bernadine Platz, daughter of Joseph Platz and his wife, nee Margaret Pfeffer. The Platz family lived on the Platz farm on the old road to Belleville. When Mr. and Mrs. Platz came to Columbia they first lived in an abandoned squatter's cabin near the present house. The Platz family picked a beautiful spot for their home under the shelter of the Bluff near a clear "spring of lasting water" which runs into Wamser's Creek. On the hill back of their cabin when they arrived was an Indian village, with their wigwams visible from their home. Mr. Platz and Peter Friedrich, a neighbor, had to leave their wives to go on foot on an important journey. While the men were gone the women were alone but the Indians were kind and regularly brought them game when they came to the spring to get water. The women broke rock for their homes from the soft sandstone cliffs in their back yard. The Platz house was not completed until 1850, as a tablet on the house indicates. It is still a beautiful house. A picture of it appears elsewhere in this book.

Mr. Weilbacher is the president of Henry Weilbacher and Sons; vice president of the Viking Freight Lines; Sec.-Treas. of Drugmaster Inc.

His wife, the former Lee Huhn, member of a prominent pioneer Belleville newspaper family, preceded him in death. He has three children: Arthur of Columbia, Mary Elizabeth (wife of Dr. Donald Bandler of St. Louis and Robert of Cleveland, Ohio, and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Weilbacher is a member of the Columbia Immaculate Conception Church, and an ardent worker for the church and its societies. His father has the honor of being the first child christened in the present Catholic Church.

He is a member of important civic organizations, having served as Service Officer of the Columbia American Legion Post No. 581 for many years. He was also one of the early presidents of the Columbia Volunteer Fire Co. serving for a number of years in that capacity. He also is a Past Commander of Columbia Legion Post No. 581.



REID & SCHULER GENERAL STORE



THE WASHINGTON SALOON  
MEAT MARKET BY G. A. ROHM



ARNIN'S GENERAL STORE



THE OLD WM. VOGT STORE



P. W. MILLER & SONS BLACKSMITH SHOP



J. A. PFEFFER'S STORE

## ARTHUR P. WINK, PRESIDENT OF THE COLUMBIA CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION

Arthur P. Wink, president of the Columbia Centennial Association is an active worker in civic, benevolent and church circles in Columbia and Monroe County.

Mr. Wink was born in Columbia, September 16, 1905, the son of Charles and Anna Marie Wink, nee Ferkel. His birthplace was the Rock House on the corner of South Rapp and Jefferson streets. This stone cottage recalls 18th century small homes in Germany. It is built of native limestone, beautifully cut by Columbia artisans. It is well over 100 years old, and was the family home of Mr. Wink's grandfather, Nicholas Ferkel. Mr. Ferkel had emigrated to Columbia from Gimmelding, Neu Staadt-and-Haardt, Germany. The paternal grandsire, Carl Wink, also came from Germany.

Mr. Wink's family moved to a farm south of Columbia when he was three years old. Mr. Wink received his education at the Shoemaker School, which was built in 1867-8 by Fred Koeh of Columbia at a cost of \$800. This school is now a part of Columbia Community District 1.

Farm life then was without present day refinements, and country homes were without electric lights, an unheard of thing today.

Mr. Wink attended Columbia Community High School and later completed business school and accounting courses.

He worked briefly in the Waterloo oil fields in 1920; and as a bookkeeper for Winmark Mercantile Co. of St. Louis. They sold principally on time payment, an innovation at that time, but which now has become a way of life of the American people.

Shortly after the Columbia Farmers Cooperative was organized, now the Mon-Clair Grain and Supply Company, in 1925, Mr. Wink was employed by the Co-op for \$12 a week. He progressed rapidly and by 1936 became assistant manager of the cooperative.

In September of 1936 Fate tapped him on the shoulder for advancement. He was appointed cashier of the Monroe County Savings Bank and Trust Company, now converted to the Monroe National Bank. Footings in the bank then were in the neighborhood of \$700,000; in January of 1953 nearly nine times that modest figure of \$6,000,000.

Mr. Wink is presently president of the Monroe National Bank, member of the Board of Directors; Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce; President of the Monroe County Board of School Trustees; Treasurer of Monroe County Fair Association; and Vice President of the Advisory Committee of Monroe County Department of Welfare.

In the past he served as President of St. Paul United Church of Christ and also the Brotherhood; Treasurer of the City of Columbia; Treasurer of St. Paul Cemetery; Columbia Gymnastic Association and Columbia Rotary Club; Vice President and President of the Rotary Club; President Monroe Co. Bankers' Association and Monroe County Chapter Red Cross; Vice President of Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Columbia Gymnastic Association; President Monroe County Chapter Khoury League Baseball Association and Chairman of Monroe County U. S. Savings Bonds.

Mrs. Wink is the former Ella R. Kruse, daughter of the late Fred Kruse and his wife, Emma. Mr. and Mrs. Wink have two daughters, Ethel Mae and Carol. All are members of the United Church of Christ.

With this imposing list of achievements Columbia is fortunate to have Mr. Wink as President of the Centen-

nial Association. His experience in dealing with people and affairs of magnitude make him well fitted for the position.

Equally vital to the planning of the Centennial was the efficiency of the committee which served under him.

## DR. FRANK L. EVERSULL

Dr. Frank L. Eversull was brought up in East St. Louis, Illinois, where he received his elementary and secondary education. He received the degrees of Bachelor of Philosophy and Master of Arts from the University of Chicago, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Yale University. Subsequently he was honored by Marietta College with the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and Elon College with the degree of Doctor of Law. He has done work in Washington University, McCormick Theological Seminary, and other institutions. He married the former Miss Mildred Briegel of Columbia, and they have one daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Gustafson and one son, John.

He still has his residence in Columbia, Illinois, where he was principal of the high school 1913-1916. From 1916 to 1921 he was principal of the high school at Troy. At the same time he finished his work in theology and was ordained there by Alton Presbytery in May 1917. He served as pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Troy. In his ministry he has served as assistant pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago, pastor of St. Mark's English Lutheran Church, Compton Hill Congregational Church, and Peter's Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, and the First Congregational Church in Fargo, North Dakota. After leaving Troy, Illinois for graduate work at the University of Chicago, he was principal of the Woodward School in St. Louis, 1922-28; principal of the East St. Louis High School, 1928-33; instructor in education at Yale University, 1933-34; President of Huron College, Huron South Dakota, 1934-38; President of North Dakota Agricultural College, 1938-1946. He left there to enter American Military Government and was sent to Korea where he served as Chief of Colleges and Teachers Colleges, 1946-1948. The next year he spent on the lecture platform, then entered Washington University where he was full professor in guidance, higher education, and comparative education. He conducted his own radio program "The Date Line" over WIBV for more than two years.

Dr. Eversull was selected as a distinguished graduate of the University of Chicago June 8, 1946. He was decorated by King Christian X of Denmark May 15, 1946. He was appointed professional counselor by the National Vocational Guidance Association, October 31, 1949. During the summer of 1950 he served as Director of the Midwest International Seminar at Aarhus, Denmark. He has been an Elector in the Hall of Fame since 1936 and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. By appointment of the Governor of Illinois, he was on the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University and Vice President of the Board.

His fraternity is Sigma Alpha Epsilon. In the honorary fraternities he belongs to Phi Delta Kappa, Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Kappa Phi, and Kappa Delta Pi. He belongs to all Masonic bodies, 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason. Dr. Eversull is listed in "Who's Who in America", "Who's Who in American Education", "Leaders in Education", "Who's Who in the Northwest", and "International Dictionary of Biography". He was full professor at Washington University and served as the full-time pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Belleville, Illinois from 1948-1957. He is now a Lecturer on Guidance at Southern Illinois University, East St. Louis Branch.

#### MRS. BERTHA MARIE ARNIN SCHOENING

Mrs. Bertha Marie Arnin Schoening is a member of the Centennial History Committee. She is the daughter of Joseph M. Arnin and his wife, nee Elise Kupferschmidt. Mrs. Schoening was born in Columbia as was her father. Her mother was born in St. Louis. Her paternal grandfather was John Arnin and her paternal grandmother nee Anna Harmacek. Her maternal grandparents were Philip Kupferschmidt and his wife, Catherine, nee Braun. Both grandfathers came from Baden, Germany while Grandma Kupferschmidt came from Alsace-Lorraine and Grandma Arnin from Mecklin, Austria. They all came to this country in the 1850's and 1860's.

Bertha Arnin was married to Arthur Schoening, whose father owned the old Columbia Star Mill and was interested in many other Columbia enterprises. They have one son, Everett William Schoening, who is the consul at the United States Consulate at Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He served with honor and distinction in similar capacities (although his position was not so named) in Germany during and after World War II. His wife is the former June Crittenden of Columbia.

The Arnin family conducted a general store here for many years. Mr. Arnin served as postmaster for many years, as did Mrs. Schoening's brother, Arthur Arnin. Another brother, Harry, is the husband of the former Bertha Kunz, and he was also prominent in early Columbia. A sister, Olivia Arnin, lives with Mrs. Schoening, and also Mr. Arnin's sister, Louisa Arnin (Aunt Lou to everyone). Another sister, Mrs. Edwin Kueffner, nee Florence Arnin lives at Granite City.

Mrs. Schoening is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ. She helps in many church activities, the Women's Guild, Sewing Circle of which she is secretary-treasurer; teacher in the Junior Department of the Sunday School and member of the Fidesta Bible Class.

She is a Charter member of Monroe Chapter No. 597 Order of the Eastern Star, having been a member for over 52 years, and serving as secretary of this organization for 50 years, serving every year except two of the Chapter's existence. She was Worthy Matron for three years during 1918-19-20.

#### WALTER F. GIFFHORN

Walter F. Giffhorn is a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbia Centennial Association and also of the Historical committee. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Giffhorn. His maternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kremmel, Sr., who came here from Switzerland. Mr. Kremmel was a Columbia saddler for many years. Walter's paternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Giffhorn. Mr. Giffhorn was a farmer. An uncle, Henry Giffhorn, was a popular county commissioner for many years. The elder Giffhorns came here from Germany.

Mrs. Giffhorn was the daughter of Wm. Reichenbach and his wife nee Eckert. Her grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich Reichenbach, Sr., who operated a shoemaking establishment. He made shoes by hand and his wife went to Carondelet, Mo. by ferry and sold the shoes for him. Later he operated a tavern which is now Eberhard's. The Reichenbachs came from Germany. Henry Reichenbach, Jr., for many years was secretary of the Turnverein and his beautiful German records are a joy to behold. The Giffhorns have one son, Walter, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Giffhorn are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ. He is a member of St. Paul's Brotherhood. Mr. Giffhorn is with the Southwestern Railroad as Commercial agent. He belongs to the Traffic Club of St. Louis and the Little Egyptian Traffic Club.

#### MRS. RAYMOND F. KREMMEL

Mrs. Raymond F. Kremmel, nee Laura M. Schnell, a member of the Board of Directors of the Centennial Association, and also in charge of the volunteer service for the Centennial, was born at Waterloo, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Schnell. Mrs. Kremmel attended school at Valmeyer. She was also a graduate of Summers College of Commerce at East St. Louis.

The Schnell family moved to Columbia and Mrs. Kremmel took a position with Henry Weilbacher and Sons in 1926 doing clerical work. In 1933 she was appointed buyer and manager in the ladies' ready-to-wear department in the same store. Until her retirement her entire business experience was with the Weilbacher Store, where she was employed for 26½ years.

Mrs. Kremmel is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ and has given many years of service to the church. She served as secretary of the Sunday School twenty-one years and as assistant secretary for nine years, and also as secretary of the Board of Christian Education. She served as a member of the church Consistory for three years and is also a member of the Women's Guild.

She has also given years of work to the American Legion and is at present head of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 581, after serving as first and second vice president. She has served as Sergeant-at-arms of the St. Clair-Monroe County Council and is at present the chaplain of that organization. In addition to this she is the president of St. Clair County Lodge 163, Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America.

#### MISS ERNESTINE C. SMITH

Miss Ernestine C. Smith, daughter of George W. Smith and his wife, Kate Rose, nee Carroll was born in Chicago, Illinois. The family moved to West Point, Iowa, where her father started a country newspaper, the West Point Bee. The family, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and the two daughters, Ernestine and Consuelo, moved to Columbia in May of 1906, where they started the newspaper, the Columbia Star, which was later sold to Roy Conrad, the present owner. Ernestine attended the public school at West Point and later St. Mary's Catholic School and high school there.

Her paternal grandparents George Schmitt and his wife, Caroline, nee Zweig came by sailing vessel from Nuremberg, Bavaria and Westphalia, settling at Sugar Loaf. Her maternal grandparents, Martin Carroll, and his wife Rose, nee Murphy came from County Cork, Ireland to Vermont where they farmed. Later they moved to Milwaukee and Martin Carroll became Milwaukee's first mayor. Democratic politics ran in the family for a cousin Martin Kennelly, served as mayor of Chicago.

The subject is a graduate of Summers College of Commerce, and later taught at the East St. Louis, Collinsville and Granite City branch schools of Summers.

At the death of her father Ernestine became the editor of the Columbia Star with her sister Consuelo, publisher and her husband, C. L. Volkert, linotype operator and pressman.

The subject served for seven years as Fiscal Supervisor and head of publicity in the Department of Registration and Education in Springfield, Ill. For five years she was the librarian and counselor of the Christian Welfare Hospital School of Nursing at East St. Louis. At present she is head of the Control Room at the Municipal Building here.



COLUMBIA QUARRY CO. PICNIC



SURREY WITH THE FRINGE ON THE TOP



TURNING SCHOOL



1892 CHAMPIONS



THE M. & O. LEAGUERS



OLD BALL DIAMOND

## HERBERT C. SCHUELER

Herbert C. Schueler was born at Columbia, the son of William Schueler and his wife nee Ida Oerter. He was married to Miss Leola Ludwig, daughter of Philip Ludwig and his wife Anna, nee Naumann. This union was blessed with one daughter, Wendy Lou.

Mr. Schueler attended the Columbia public school and graduated from the Columbia High School. He attended the David Rankin Trade School, taking Architectural Drafting and Construction Technique at night school. He studied with the Chicago Technical College by correspondence, taking estimating and construction. While with the U. S. Army in France he attended the Biaritz American University, Biaritz, France, taking courses relating to construction.

Mr. Schueler is a general contractor with Schueler Brothers, Contractors and Builders, Inc. He is president of the Monroe Building and Supply Co., president of Columbia Development Co., Inc., and director of Schueler Bros. Inc., Credit Union.

Monroe Building and Supply Co. started in 1952. Officers were Herbert Schueler, president; William Schueler, vice president; Clarence Schueler, secretary-treasurer. They procured buildings from Jefferson Barracks and cut them down in sections, transported them to Columbia and set them up for lumber storage.

Schueler Bros. Contractors and Builders was organized in 1921 with William Schueler head of the organization. In 1938 Clarence Schueler came into the business and in 1940 Herbert Schueler joined it and the name was changed to William Schueler and Sons.

During World War II when both boys were in the service and there was a scarcity of building materials a brief interruption in business was necessary. But after the return of the boys after the war the two boys carried on the business, with the senior partner dropping out. The firm became Schueler Bros., Contractors and Builders until 1959, when the partnership was incorporated.

Herbert Schueler is president of this incorporation; William Schueler, vice president and Clarence Schueler, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Schueler is a member of the Centennial Association committee, relating to Concessions and Rides.

He belongs to Columbia Post 581 American Legion, and is also a member of the Legion Drill Team.

He is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ, an elder in the church and president of St. Paul Cemetery Association.

## MILDRED LUCILLE BRIEGEL EVERSULL

Mildred Lucille Briegel was born in Columbia, the daughter of Rudolph Briegel and his wife, Pauline, nee Stein. She attended the public school in Columbia where her father was for many years a teacher, and later succeeded E. T. Weible as Superintendent of Schools. She graduated from the eighth grade and high school here, being a member of the first four year high school graduating class. She attended Harris' Teachers College at St. Louis in the summer and in 1918 was married to Frank L. Eversull who taught in the Columbia high school from 1913 to 1916. She taught in the public school system of Columbia for a short time.

After the Eversulls moved to Troy, Illinois, Mrs. Eversull taught typing and stenography in the high school there. She attended the University of Chicago, and later when the Eversulls moved to St. Louis she joined the Carondelet Women's Club and later served as its president. She initiated a woman's choral group in the Wednesday Club when they moved to East St. Louis.

She is a graduate of the Kroeger School of Music at St. Louis. When Dr. Eversull attended Yale University Mildred took extension courses there. At Huron, South Dakota she was active in the Faculty Woman's Club and the Federated Women's Clubs. She also took college courses at Huron, gathering her credits, and graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Science at the North Dakota State Teachers' College at Fargo, North Dakota. There she taught in the Army Administration School which was on campus at the State School. She has done grade and high school teaching all during her married life. She has taken courses at Washington University at St. Louis. A writer, particularly of foreign travel, for she has taken three trips abroad; and a writer of fiction, for she is a member of the National League of American Penwomen. She is President of the McKendree Writers Association.

Her sororities are Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society; Pi Gamma Mu, an honorary social science sorority.

As wife of the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Belleville she has been very active in church work.

The Eversulls have reared two children, Evelyn, the wife of Sanford Gustafson. Their son John is a full Colonel in the U. S. Air Force.

The Eversulls live in Mrs. Eversull's parental home at 620 N. Metter, Columbia.

She is chairman of the Women's Group in the fund raising campaign of the Memorial Hospital at Belleville. She is also much in demand as a public speaker and a book reviewer.

## JOHN S. DIVERS

John S. Divers, a member of the Centennial History Committee, operates a farm in the American Bottom. Part of the land he farms was a land grant in 1848 under President James Polk to James L. D. Morrison. It was later acquired by his grandfather, George Divers, who was an influential citizen and large land owner in old Columbia.

John S. Divers, "Jack" as he is better known to Columbians, was born in South Bend, Indiana, but came to Columbia as a small boy. His parents were John S. and Nettie Divers.

His great-grandfather, John Salathiel Divers came to Monroe County in the 1820's from Maryland. The home now occupied by the Roy Stumpf family was reputedly the first Divers home. The home known as the Delaney home has been in the Divers family since 1862 (a Divers daughter, Addie, was married to John Delaney — hence the name, Delaney home). It was purchased by George Divers in 1862. Records show that it was built before 1857.

An interesting look into the days of yore comes in a little slip of paper 5x8 inches, the last "free" paper found in the Court House at Waterloo. It sets forth the following: "Mr. Wm. O'Melveny The bearer hereof, Susan Battiste, has been raised by me and has served her time out and is now of age and is entitled to her free papers. April 22, 1847 John Divers". This paper was never made a matter of record.

George Divers was the mayor of Columbia for seven years. He also served four terms as Town Trustee.

Mrs. "Jack" Divers, nee Clara Lieser, was born in Columbia, a daughter of Charles and Mathilda Lieser, also early settlers of Columbia. Mrs. Divers' great-grandfather, Christian Lieser, migrated from Germany to Belleville and then Columbia in the early 1850's. They settled on a farm near the southern part of Columbia which is now owned by the Lowell Andrew family. There Mrs. Divers' father was born, and after he was married he and his family lived until the place was sold. Mr. Lieser served for many years as District road commissioner, ren-

dering valuable service. Mr. Lieser was the last Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans organization. From December 1, 1906 to March 31, 1918 Mr. Lieser was the rural route carrier on route 2. Those were the days when roads were quagmires and it took a bit of doing to get through with the mail. Mr. Lieser was active in the Columbia Commercial Club and the Turners for many years.

The Liesers have three daughters, Mrs. Edward Lude, secretary for the A. F. Weinel Lumber Co. for many years and also the Building and Loan Association; Mrs. Ray Ramsey, wife of a prominent Bottom farmer and Mrs. Jack Divers.

Mr. and Mrs. Divers are both graduates of the Columbia High School, class of 1926. They are both active members of the United Church of Christ, members of its auxiliary organizations, counsellors of the Youth Fellowship, and both teach in the Sunday school.

They have two sons, Wesson C. Divers and Donald A. Divers.

### MRS. DOROTHY EPPINGER

Mrs. Dorothy Weinel Eppinger, widow of Frank Eppinger, is the daughter of Ernst A. Weinel and his wife Mollie, nee Schubert. Her paternal grandparents were August F. Weinel and Bertha Grosse Weinel, early residents of Columbia. The Weinels came from Germany; her mother's people came from Wheeling, West Virginia. She received her education in Columbia's grade and high school.

She is a member of the St. Paul United Church of Christ and is the director of the Girls' Choir. The possessor of a fine well-trained voice, she thoroughly enjoys her work as choir director.

She is a member of the Monroe Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, serving as Past Matron and present treasurer. She is a member of the Mission Shrine Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem and a Past Worthy High Priestess. She is a Guardian of Job's Daughters Bethel 63; a member and Past President of the Columbia Woman's Club and a Director of the Belleville Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She is serving as treasurer of the Columbia Centennial Association at present and is also Historic Homes Chairman for the Centennial.

She is the Cashier of the First National Bank in Columbia, Illinois.

Mrs. Dorothy Weinel Eppinger, Chairman of Historical Homes, reports that Columbia has many homes which are one hundred years old or older, and show the sturdy construction practiced by our forefathers. The early settlers came overland from Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky or by river from New Orleans, hence the houses show a varied type of architecture.

The grill work, which unfortunately has all disappeared, shows the Spanish influence; the Colonial columns and Gothic doorways the eastern and southern influence.

The houses in the South end of town are all built on the front edge of the property, to allow more space in the back for gardens — this showing the German conservativeness.

One thing they have in common — the walls are about two feet thick, which accounts for the fact that they are still tenable and in good condition.

These houses will be appropriately marked for the Centennial.

### JACOB LUDWIG, COLUMBIA'S OLDEST CITIZEN

Jacob Ludwig, 94, lives in Columbia and is our oldest citizen. He is a familiar figure on Columbia streets — active in mind and body. He still works occasionally and pays a daily visit to his sister, Mrs. Anna Wright. He was married to Miss Emma Mund, member of a pioneer New Hanover family. She passed away some years ago. Father Ludwig makes his home with his sons, Theodore Ludwig, retired, and his other son, Phillip Ludwig.

Theodore Ludwig and his wife, Ida, nee Wilde, have four daughters: Mrs. Harold Schnell (Evelyn), Mrs. Earl Schaefer (Mabel), Mrs. Harvey Taake (Ethel) and Mrs. Gene Henckler (Marguerite).

For 37 years Theodore Ludwig worked for Monsanto Chemical Co. at Monsanto, retiring in 1957.

Another son, Phillip, was the dean of aldermen of the City of Columbia, serving continuously for twenty-six years and as City Clerk for four years. Because of ill health he recently retired. Phillip married the former Miss Anna Naumann. They have four children: Hawert, a machinist at Columbia Quarry Co.; Wilbur, employed at Kruse Chevrolet Co.; Clifford, employed at the Luhr Construction Co.; and Leola, wife of Herbert Schueler.

Columbia was Mr. Ludwig's adopted city for the Ludwigs came here from New Hanover — picturesque New Hanover, so named because German immigrants came there from Hanover, Germany in 1835. The village was established in 1794 by Jacob Tehudy who came here from Switzerland, and was one of the county's first settlers. New Hanover had the distinction of having an overshot water mill, the first in Monroe County.

### MISS JOSEPHINE BURROUGHS

When George Rogers Clark came to Cahokia, the Johnstons of Virginia came with him. Miss Burroughs' mother was a Johnston. The Johnstons went to St. Louis, and were joined there by Miss Burroughs' grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Van Arsoll. The Van Arsoll family emigrated to New York, then to Ohio then Pennsylvania and then to St. Louis.

Miss Burroughs' sister was Louella Burroughs who married Joshua Wilson, who was a son of John H. Wilson. Miss Burroughs is the owner of the Wilson house which is believed to be about 140 years old. The original part of the house is in the back, and it remains largely the same as when it was built. The front part of it was planned by an architect friend of John H. Wilson from Boston, Massachusetts, who came to visit the Wilson family when he was en route to California.

He became so interested in planning the house and supervising the construction that he stayed for a year until it was completed.

It is almost as it was when it was built, with the exception of modernization, and is a landmark of beauty and of historical significance, linking the days of the early pioneers with the later German settlers.

Mrs. John H. Wilson, nee Sarah Morgan, was a daughter of Major Edward Morgan, noted Indian fighter, who was in a Brigade of Mounted Volunteers in the War of 1812. The home place of the Edward Morgans was the George Glaenzer farm.

Miss Burroughs for many years was a beloved teacher in the East St. Louis school system, and many of her former pupils come to visit her even now.

Social life in Columbia in those days gone by is remembered by Miss Burroughs. Friends of the Wilson family were the Divers, the Morgans, the Waddles, and the Warnocks, and there was a gay social whirl amongst these pioneer settlers.

## THE HENRY PAYNE FARM HOME

The Henry Payne farm home on R.F.D. No. 1, of Columbia, is among one of the most interesting of the old houses in the neighborhood of Columbia. It is one of the few original log houses still standing and is still in use by the Payne family. It is estimated to be between 130 and 140 years old.

Originally it was a one room pioneer home, with a fireplace, which served for warmth and for cooking. Later on through the years more room was added, but the construction of the original part remains the same as the day it was erected, including the fireplace chimney. The fireplace, however, has been closed in.

It is situated on a spring of lasting water which the pioneers always looked for when they built.

The history of the claim is interesting. On January 18, 1818 Edward Wilson acquired 265 acres by patent from the United States; on August 13, 1827 Edward Wilson conveyed 164 acres to his brother, Otho; in 1850 Otho died and Anthony N. Payne acquired 32 acres on the site upon which the Payne house is located. In 1855 Anthony Payne transferred the land to his wife Nancy, nee Wilson.

Nancy Wilson was the daughter of Otho Wilson and his wife Elizabeth, nee Biggs. The Otho Wilsons lived on Section 7, 1/4 miles northwest of Columbia, near Scipio Beard's claim. Nancy's sisters and brothers were Zeborah, Edward, William and Sarah.

The Wilson family came originally from Maryland, then moved to Kentucky, and about 1800 came to the State of Illinois. There were three brothers: Otho, Edward and William.

Nancy's father, Otho, served in the War of 1812 and in the Black Hawk War.

Nancy Wilson married James Hudson, who came to this area from Kentucky in 1821, and it is entirely plausible that the Payne house was built at that time or before. On March 21, 1849 Mr. Hudson died.

Nancy's second husband was Anthony N. Payne who came to Columbia from Tennessee in 1835. Mr. Payne died on May 11, 1879 and Mrs. Payne probably came to Columbia to live. She lived in a small house where Mrs. Bert Divers' property now is situated. In another part of this house lived Mrs. Phoebe Hewitt. Mrs. Payne and Mrs. Hewitt had probably been neighbors on the farm, for in the F. W. Weinle abstract appear the names of Franklin and Lucy Hewitt, and the Weinle home is in the neighborhood of the Payne farm.

The two old gentlewomen sat on the front porch of their home and were joined by Mrs. Palmier, who lived in the two-story house next to Al's Cleaners. These three were called affectionately by relatives and friends alike, "Granny" Payne, "Granny" Hewitt and "Granny" Palmier (pronounced pal-me-er).

On warm summer afternoons these three lovely old ladies rocked contentedly in their high backed rocking chairs and smoked their clay pipes, recalling the joys and sorrows of pioneer days the while.

Word went out when they were smoking their pipes, and little boys and girls of German ancestry, unaccustomed to the Southern custom of women smoking pipes, found excuses to go past the house and furtively watch the old ladies.

Nancy and Anthony Payne were Henry Payne's grandparents; Robert and Raymond Payne's great-grand-parents

and Allan Joel, son of Raymond Payne's, now in the service, great-great-grandparents.

The Payne homestead was the birthplace of Edward Payne, Henry Payne's father; also the birthplace of a step-brother, John; and a brother, George; also of Henry Payne and his son Robert.

Mrs. Henry Payne, the former Emily Lepp, is also a member of an old Columbia family, the Lepp family coming here from Hecker, Illinois during the German immigration period.

For the information on the real estate we are indebted to Arthur Rueck, Circuit Clerk and Robert Gardner, County Surveyor, who gleaned the information from the American Papers in the Court House.

## CAMP NO. 5, ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

Camp No. 5, Royal Neighbors of America was instituted on December 17, 1897 at the old Masonic Hall Building.

The first officers were: Oracle, Mary V. Lemen, Past Oracle, Frances Brandt, Vice Oracle, Katie Bersche, Chancellor, May R. Johnson, Marshal Cora Johnson, Recorder, Maggie Urme, Receiver, Lizzetha Ritter, Inner Sentinel, Magdelene Kalowsky, Outer Sentinel, Mary Kraus. Managers were Addie Tolin, N. J. Urme and Fannie Divers; Physician, Dr. Wm. Rose.

The Royal Neighbors are a benevolent and protective organization. The organization now has a membership of 63 adult and 10 juvenile — a total of 73.

They meet the second Thursday of the month at the Municipal Building Auditorium.

Present officers are: Oracle, Elizabeth Rehg, Past Oracle, Bertha Haberlah, Vice Oracle, Elsie Phelps, Chancellor, Stella Tunze, Recorder, Esther Stumpf, Receiver Alvina Giffhorn, Marshal, Ella Jahr, Asst. Marshal, Laura Haberlah, Inner Sentinel, Lillie Ludwig, Outer Sentinel, Frances Laub, Managers, Dorothea Lark and Fronia Heise, Musician, Ernestine Smith, Flag Bearer, Elizabeth Karger.

## D. O. H. GERMAN ORDER OF HARUGARI

Columbia Lodge, No. 379, D. O. H., German Order of Harugari, was organized June 28, 1875. The D. O. H. was first founded by twelve honorable German citizens in New York March 9, 1847, and organized in the State of Illinois in 1849.

The object of the order was to organize a secret society with a ritualistic lodge system, to maintain and propagate the German language wherever the order exists, and to practice charity, mutual assistance and social intercourse among its members. The principles of the order are Friendship, Love and Humanity.

Many Columbians were members, among them, Mr. Wm. Haberlah, who was an enthusiastic member, as was his father, Ferdinand Haberlah, Henry Haberlah, son of Wm. Haberlah is now the remaining member of Columbia Lodge.

On September 6 and 7, 1920, Columbia was honored in having the convention of the Grand Lodge of Illinois held in this city. Mr. Wm. Haberlah served as Deputy-Gross Barde. He received the highest honor in being elected Gross-Barde of the D. O. H., Deutscher Orden of Harugari of the State of Illinois and faithfully served from 1922 to 1924.



## Heads of Government in Columbia

MAYORS OF THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA 1859-1903

MAYORS OF THE VILLAGE OF COLUMBIA 1903-1927

MAYORS OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA 1927-1959

TOWN APPROVED FEBRUARY 19, 1859

VILLAGE OCTOBER 3, 1903

CITY MARCH 22, 1927

There were eighteen mayors who served Columbia  
over a period of 100 years.

### STEWART McKEE

1859-61

1862-63

### LAFAYETTE WARNOCK

1863-64

1866-67

### JOHN GUNDLACH

1865-66

1867-69

### GEORGE DIVERS

1872-73

1882-85

1888-91

1895-97

### JACOB LOTZ

1876-81

1885-86

1891-92

### JOHN B. SCHMIDT

1886-87

### CHARLES LOTZ

1894-95

### JAMES WARNOCK

1898-1903

### JOHN McKEE

1861-62

### S. M. BEAIRD

1864-65

1869-70

### JOHN T. ANGERER

1870-72

1873-75

### AUGUST F. WEINEL

1875-76

### JOHN A. PFEFFER

1881-82

1887-88

### HENRY J. KUNZ, SR.

1892-93

### CHARLES PEPPERNI

1893-94

1897-98

### H. N. KUNZ

1904-09

### FRED G. RAPP

1909-1933

### ALBERT C. METTER

1933-59 (inclusive)



THE ORIGINAL HOME OF JOSEPH AND MARGARET PLATZ, NEE PFEFFER



THE ADELHEID LUHR HOME

## Examples of Modern Architecture in Columbia



A VIEW OF THE GIFFHORN SUBDIVISION



THE MRS. H. J. FRIEDRICH HOME



THE DUNDON HOME



### JEFFERSON BARRACKS BRIDGE

Of historic interest as well as practical value is the Jefferson Barracks bridge. It crosses the Mississippi just south of Jefferson Barracks on the Missouri side to Columbia precinct in Monroe county on the Illinois side, connecting with Illinois route 3 just north of Columbia.

It was officially opened to traffic on December 9, 1944, under the sponsorship of the Jefferson Barracks Bridge Association with Governors Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri and Dwight H. Green of Illinois participating as principal speakers. In this two state dedicatory ceremony Miss Paula Marie Waldemer, Bridge Queen of Missouri, daughter of Alfred C. Waldemer of St. Louis, President of the Bridge Association, and Miss Florence E. Metter, Bridge Queen of Illinois, daughter of Mayor Albert C. Metter of Columbia, First Vice-President of the Bridge Association, were selected to cut the ribbon which officially opened the bridge to traffic.

It is a cantilever type, highway toll bridge, 3626 feet

long, costing \$2,600,000. It was financed by revenue bonds issued by the St. Louis county court. It is planned to make it a toll free bridge late this year — 1959, when the bonds pay out. It affords Columbians and traffic generally, a short route to south St. Louis and Lindbergh boulevard, or as it is now known, the St. Louis Outer-Belt Highway.

In naming the bridge, honor was paid to a great president, Thomas Jefferson and an historic army post which was established by the War Department in 1826.

Columbia businessmen and civic leaders who served on the original Lindbergh Bridge Association and its successor the Jefferson Barracks Bridge Association and took an active part in sponsoring the promotion, location, construction, and later the operation thereof were: Clarence A. Hacker, Albert C. Metter, Fred G. Rapp, Edmund L. Rauch and Leo A. Weilbacher, Sr. The present executive board includes: Walter F. Rapp and Arthur P. Wink of Columbia.



At the Dedication of Jefferson Barracks Bridge. Front row: Mayor A. C. Metter, Paula Waldemer, Gov. Dwight Green, Florence Metter Haberl. Second row: Leo Weilbacher, J. F. Schmidt, Fred G. Rapp, the Commandant at Jefferson Barracks Bridge.



Nellie Mathews, 17-year-old baseball and basket ball star of Columbia Community Unit No. 4, shaking hands with Charlie Grimm, vice-president of the Chicago Cubs, following the signing of a bonus contract for a sum reported at \$15,000 to \$20,000. The signing took place at his home here. He is the son of Mrs. Leo Mathews of Columbia.



COLUMBIA SCHOOL UNIT 4 BAND SALUTES HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI AT BANQUET

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Columbia Gymnastic Association advertised the Columbia Centennial by appearing in old fashioned clothes at all affairs given by the Turners previous to the Centennial.



## THE ROHM FAMILY

The Rohms were early settlers of Columbia. Here is a little history of them. On January 4, 1813, in the American State Papers appears this real estate transaction. In April of that year John Edgar sold 100 acres of land to James Nowlin. Now the Nowlin family laid out the original town of Columbia. They lived in a log cabin on the site of the house where Adolph Rohm and his wife nee Ella Rauch now live. It was a tract of land of 100 acres and it sold for \$300. It passed through the hands of many of the older settlers, the Wadernans, the McQuades, the Colemans, the Thomas Morgans, the Daniel Doyses and it was purchased in 1851 by Conrad Rohm, Gustav Rohm's father.

Gustav Rohm conducted a butcher shop on Main street with his brother, Richard, his partner. He sold out to Gustav Rohm. Gustav Rohm married Katie Schneider, daughter of Philip Schneider. They had eight children: Henry, Philip, Mrs. Eva Krenmel, Ferdinand, whose wife is the former Ella Rose, Miss Minnie, Adolph, who married Ella Rauch, Fred and Mrs. Carrie Krenmel, nee Rohm.

All lived in Columbia but Fred, who moved to St. Louis. Adolph Rohm has a barber shop here. Ferd served on the City Council from 1939 to 1941. Gus served from 1899 to 1901 and again from 1903-1904.

Eva Rohm married William Krenmel of Columbia. His parents, who came from Germany and Switzerland were, William Krenmel Sr. of Columbia and Louisa Gentch, also of Columbia. They had six children, William, Ferdinand, deceased, Henry, Mrs. Amelia Giffhorn, Mrs. Alma Stahl and Adelia Krenmel.

Their children are Clarence, Wilbert, who is presently on the school board and the City Council, Talitha Donnel, who lives in Pennsylvania on the DuPont estate, and whose husband serves as head of the guards, Ardel Hinrichs, Thelma Herbst, Oliver, who is at the Veterans Hospital at Jefferson Barracks and recovering nicely and Lucille wife of Coach Smith of the Columbia High School.

## RAPP - LANDGRAF AND RUECK - NIEMEIER FAMILIES

Mrs. Arthur Rueck, nee Viola Adele Rapp, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Rapp, nee Schneider, and the sister of Walter Rapp who continues the insurance business established by the late Fred G. Rapp.

Mrs. Rueck was born in Columbia. She graduated from the Columbia grade school and high school and attended Illinois State Normal University at Bloomington. She also attended Washington University and Southern Illinois University. She has a degree in education from Southern Illinois University. She was married to Arthur Rueck and they have one son Arthur F. H., who is associated with his uncle, Walter Rapp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Rapp in the Rapp Insurance Agency. Mrs. Rueck's grandmother and grandfather were Mr. and Mrs. Hartman Schneider. Both came from Germany. Mr. Schneider was a relative of the Falkenhamers of St. Louis, who also came from Germany and had heavy land holdings in that country. The Hartmann Schneiders had two daughters, Mrs. Lydia Rapp and Mrs. Ida Meyer, wife of Arthur Meyer.

Mrs. Rueck's grandmother, Mrs. Sophia Schneider, nee Landgraf, conducted a millinery store and dress-making shop here. Mrs. Schneider was born on shipboard, on the "Bunker Hill", as her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Landgraf came over from Germany, to locate at Burksville, Illinois, where they established a flour mill. Their children were, Frances Berkmeier, Bertha Selbert, Schanauel, Lena Keil, Ernst and Gus, who married two Irish girls from County Cork, Ireland. Louis whose wife Theresa, nee Schmidt, died recently at the age of 95. They had 8 children: Louis, Edmund, Bertha, Walter, Ida, Anita, Arthur and Rudolph.

Mrs. Rueck's husband, Arthur Rueck, was the son of Henry Rueck, whose family came from St. Clair County, locating there after their arrival from Germany. He was twice married. His first wife, nee Harres, was a relative of the Sauerwein family of New Athens. His second wife was Miss Emma Niemeier of Columbia. They had three children, Arthur, Circuit Clerk and Recorder of Deeds of Monroe County and former councilman, Carl of Crestwood, vice president, Schroeder and Tremayne Sponge Co. Inc., and Elmer E., with the Quality Dairy Co. of East St. Louis.

The Niemeiers were prominent in early Columbia history. Mr. Niemeier came from Prussia in Germany. His wife was Catherine Kraus of Columbia. Mr. Niemeier was a trader. He was very successful and during the Civil War procured horses for the North. He built a beautiful home in Columbia which was torn down to make way for Columbia's first subdivision, the Herman Friedrich's First subdivision.

Their children were Mrs. Emma Rueck, Mrs. Ida Kunz (Mrs. H. N. Kunz), Mrs. Bertha Heinemann, Mrs. Tillie Sodemann, Mrs. Carrie Bollinger and Charles Niemeier.

## KLEIN—TUNZE FAMILIES

Daniel Klein, grandfather of Alvin Klein came here from Germany by sailboat, a voyage that lasted 90 days. He landed at New Orleans and came to St. Louis where for a time he lived on the levee there, for St. Louis was sparsely settled then. He married Julia Kern. They located at Columbia. They had nine children, five boys and four girls. They were: Henry, Louis, Charles, William and Gus, Miss Carrie, Mrs. Elizabeth Reger, Mrs. Emma Kreckel, and Mrs. Ida Otto.

On the maternal side, Alvin's great-grandfather W. Stueck came over from Germany in 1820, one of the first Germans to make Columbia their home. His wife came with him for they were married in the Old Country. He purchased considerable land in Columbia for his name appears on many old real estate transfers. One of his children, Elizabeth, married John George Bidlingmeyer. She died, leaving two little girls, Anna and Lulu, both under five years of age. Anna, who afterwards married Henry Klein, was raised by Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Weinel and Lulu by Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Grosse, who lived in the Gundlach house, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heisler.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Klein had six children, Arthur, Alvin, Bertha, Eugene, Lulu and Roland. Henry Klein's brother, William, had four children: Theodore, Arnold, Eleanor and Frieda. Theodore and Arnold live in Columbia precinct, and Eleanor at Mobile, Alabama. Frieda died in her early youth.

Alvin married Miss Alyda Tunze, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Tunze, nee Schmidt. Mrs. Klein is the organist at the St. Paul United Church of Christ. She has been the organist for forty-five consecutive years. She is a talented musician. Both Mr. and Mrs. Klein are members of the church and active in Masonic and Eastern Star circles.

The Tunze family stems from Germany. Richard Tunze came here from Hanover on June 23, 1867. On September 2, 1868 he married Miss Louisa Luhrig at St. Louis. They later moved to Columbia. They had ten children: Gustav, Minnie Tilton, Charles, Louis, Fred, William, Herman, John and Louise Kean, and Mrs. Sadie Ryan of St. Louis who survives.

The Tunzes were good citizens, for Louis Tunze and Gustav Tunze both served on the Village Board. Herman Tunze's son, Raymond, was one of Columbia's outstanding Scoutmasters, serving the time the Scout Hut was built. He was also an outstanding leader of Columbia

youth in the DeMolay organization.

The original of the sketch, Alvin Klein, served for many years as treasurer of the city and as city clerk. He is at present the assistant city clerk.

### THE YOUNG-HEILIGSTEDT FAMILIES

The history of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Young's families goes back to early Columbia.

Fred Young's grandfather, Fred Koch, Sr. was a carpenter-contractor. He built the old Columbia Public School and the old City Hall and jail. He had five daughters and one son. The daughters were: Mrs. Emma Rey, Mrs. Anna Meyer, Mrs. Henrietta Sauthoff, Mrs. Johanna Kuehner and Mrs. Louisa Young, who was Mrs. George Young mother of Fred Young. The son was Fred Koch, Jr. also a carpenter-contractor. The Koch family were all heavy landowners in and around Columbia.

Fred Young married Miss Katherine Richert, whose mother was Emma Heiligstedt. The Youngs have one son, Frederick C. a director of the music department of the Dupo High School.

Mrs. Richert, then Emma Heiligstedt, married Fred Daniel Richert, son of Fred Richert of St. Louis. They had three children, Carl, Katherine and Fred, all of Columbia. Carl is City Treasurer of Columbia. Fred Jr. has worked at the railroad yards at Dupo as a clerk for the past 46 years.

The Heiligstedts came to America on a sailing vessel in 1849. Edward V. Heiligstedt was Mrs. Young's grandfather. He was born in 1825 in Strausfurt by Ehrfurt, Koenigsreich, Preusen, Germany. Before coming to America he went to Brazil, South America. Two years later he left Brazil and came to New Orleans, lived there for a time and then came to Columbia where he lived until his death. On October 17, 1852 he married Christina Wagner who had come to America with her parents in 1849 on a sailing vessel. She was born at Oberhafles, near Mannheim, Baden, Germany in 1828. In the old country she had been engaged to Jacob Lotz, but it took 85 days to get here, communications were so uncertain that Jacob Lotz thought she had decided not to come and became engaged to another girl. When Christina Wagner arrived she refused to let Mr. Lotz break his engagement to the other girl. She and her mother went to work at the hotel here. There she met and later married Edward Heiligstedt. They had ten children, five of whom died. The living children were Charles, Mrs. William (Billy) Scheuermann, Augusta Volkert, wife of John Volkert, Mina, wife of Albert Lepp and Emma, wife of Fred Richert.

Mrs. Richert was a most interesting person. She was deeply religious and always interested in giving words of comfort to those in trouble. She was a great friend of what other Columbians termed the Yankees and because of this knew much of the history of early Columbia.

### MRS. BARBARA BERGMANN

Mrs. Barbara Bergmann, widow of the late Charles Bergmann, Sr., is one of our most interesting settlers.

She was born in Columbia ninety-two years ago, in the brick cottage now owned by Clarence Eckert, on St. Paul avenue, just across the street from where she now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Frances Laub. The house is 110 years old.

Her parents were John and Barbara Mueller, nee Suda.

Her husband's parents were Joseph and Frieda Bergmann, nee Gochah. Mr. and Mrs. Bergmann lived in the beautiful rock house on the Millstadt road formerly owned by Howard Hubbel, now of St. Louis. The older Bergmanns were farmers as was Charles Bergmann, Sr.

Later he worked for the Missouri-Pacific railroad when Bixby and Dupo were just beginning to build up, as a car carpenter. Then he was transferred to De Soto, Mo., and with his family lived there.

Later they moved back to Columbia, living briefly at the Stephen Miles homestead on Eagle Prairie in the Bottom. Their daughter, Frances, now Mrs. Fred Laub, was born there.

Mrs. Bergmann's husband preceded her in death. Their living children are: Mrs. Minnie Ritter, Mrs. Frances Laub, Mrs. Barbara Riebeling, Joseph Bergmann and Thomas Bergmann. Their sons, Theodore, Charles and George preceded their mother in death. She has 28 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren and 10 great great grandchildren.

One of her grandchildren is Warren Bergmann who recently was elected as a Columbia alderman.

Before her marriage she worked for the Jim Allen family who lived in the Bottom. There she learned to speak the fine English she uses. Her memory is excellent, and she helped the historian very much in writing this history, for she knew and remembered very well so many of the older people of Columbia and the precinct, whom others had forgotten. She is a remarkable woman, as vitally interested in the Columbia of today as she was in the early days when Columbia had many families from the South, of English extraction as citizens as well as the Germans who came here to escape the tyranny of Germany and find for themselves a home in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

### MRS. LORENZ VOGT

Mrs. Lorenz Vogt, daughter of Anton and Elizabeth Vogt, nee Petri, was born on a farm near the old Booster Station in the neighborhood of historic Whiteside Station on May 29, 1873.

Mrs. Vogt's grandparents were Lenard and Margaret Petri, nee Neff. When Mrs. Vogt's grandparents came to America they first lived at Sugar Loaf in 1837 and then moved to what is now known as the Ben Weibacher farm in 1838. The Petris were among the first Germans to settle in Columbia. They could not understand English and the English settlers could not understand them, so they pantomimed their thoughts and got along very well. When they arrived, they needed a clap-board knife to split the trees into rough planks. They borrowed one and made their first shelter, a primitive cabin, of these rough planks. Beds were also made of planks with straw for a mattress. Later they built a barn. Not a nail was used in its construction — only wooden pegs. This barn, 100 years old, was just recently razed on the property now owned by Earl, Harold and Kenneth Reichert.

Mrs. Vogt lived with her parents, Anton and Elizabeth Vogt near a spring which was near an Indian camp ground. The spring emerged from under a tree. The middle water of the spring tasted like good well water; one side tasted oily and the other side sweet. After it flowed for a distance it tasted good. Since Whiteside Station is not far away from the spring, it is safe to assume that the Whitesides and Indians met in battle there, since the Vogt family found flint bags, arrow heads and arrows and a shoulder strap leather bag with divided pockets used either by the Indians or the Whitesides. One of Mrs. Vogt's brothers swapped this priceless collection for a pocket knife, and Dr. M. G. Nixon had the collection. It is thought John Honold received this collection from Dr. Nixon.

Mrs. Vogt liked the name "Vogt" so well she married a man named Vogt, Lorenz A. Vogt who came from Burksville. Mr. Vogt was a friend of the illustrious Lemen

family of New Design. Some of the Lemens, Lewis and James persuaded Mr. Vogt to come to teachers institute in Columbia when James Hilyard taught here. Mr. Vogt did, took the examination, passed it and "qualified" as they called it. In Columbia Mr. Vogt met Elizabeth Vogt and married her. 9 children, 18 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren blessed this union.

Mr. Vogt taught school — two years at Goeddeltown, fourteen at Shoemaker School, eleven at Sand Bank and seven at Columbia. He walked to the Sand Bank School as had a previous teacher, Miss Julia Divers. They had to wear hip boots in bad weather as the mud was knee deep in places. For \$10 a month extra they started the fires at the school each cold morning.

In 1927 Mrs. Vogt started a small grocery store which she and the children tended while Mr. Vogt taught school, her entire capital, \$1500, for the building and stock. She was imbued with the true pioneer spirit, determination, grit, a good business sense, a shrewd buyer and the store became very successful. Mrs. Vogt said without her children (good children, she says) she never could have accomplished the success which was hers.

It is now owned by Edward Vogt who recently acquired the store.

#### FRED JOHN JUENGLING, SR.

Fred John Juengling, Sr., son of Charles and Katherine Juengling was born in St. Louis 86 years ago, in 1873. His parents were born in Rhein-Bayern, a division of Germany near the Rhine river, or Bavaria as it was also called.

When Fred John, Sr. was one year old or in 1874, his parents moved to Columbia. His father, Charles Juengling purchased the tavern of Ernst Grosse, known as Buck Tavern, and he served as the genial host there until 1919, when prohibition was in effect. It remained closed until 1933 when prohibition was repealed, and Fred A. Juengling, Jr. became the host from 1935 until 1954. In 1954 Charles Bergmann became the owner, and remained here until 1958 when the old tavern razed. He built a new place a block from the old landmark.

The land was sold to the Catholic Church for playground space for the children of the Immaculate Conception school, and for possible building purposes in the future.

In this old landmark was a beautiful, massive fireplace of solid cherry, which was sold to Thomas Kuterer for a fraction of its real value, Thomas wishing to incorporate it in his home.

The old Juengling Tavern was in the hands of the Juengling family for 85 years, and the subject of our sketch, Fred John Juengling, Sr., has been a resident of Columbia for the same length of time, he being truly a pioneer Columbia resident.

When Charles Juengling died in 1912 it was a custom of the Turners to furnish a band for the funeral corteges of Turner members, and since Mr. Juengling was a Turner he was escorted to his final resting place in the St. Paul's Evangelical cemetery with pomp and circumstance. Turner members formed a line behind the band with each Turner member wearing a mourning badge on his lapel. The regular Turner badge had a reverse mourning side. It was a sombre sight to see the corteges wend their way to the cemeteries, playing appropriately solemn dirges. The hearse was drawn by a team of coal black horses (Wein's hearse horses, they were called), driven by Philip Eckert, father of Mrs. Clara Kilian. These beautiful animals were accoutred with jet black plumes nodding decorously above their ears. People wore the deepest of mourning at that time, the mourning period being a

year long. Such were the modes of yesteryear.

The children of Fred John Juengling, Sr., are: Corinne Gildehaus of St. Louis; Fred A. Juengling, Jr., Columbia; Helen Mauer, St. Louis and Carl Juengling, assistant day superintendent of the Falstaff Brewing Co. of St. Louis. The husbands of Corinne and Helen both work for a rival brewery, the Anheuser-Busch establishment.

Brothers and sisters of Fred, Sr. are: Gustav, who is 84 years old, William, Mrs. Manie Mueller, Sister Alma (Louise Juengling) who for fifty years has been a nun at Glen Addie, Illinois.

Mr. Juengling stays with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Juengling, Jr.

#### MRS. FRED HENCKLER

Mrs. Fred Henckler, a member of the Centennial Historical Committee and the Pageant Committee, was born in Columbia, the daughter of Charles J. Schneider and his wife Martha, nee Reis. On the paternal side her grandparents were Charles Schneider, and his wife, Mary, nee Schumacher. Mr. Schneider came from Germany when he was a year old. The family settled in Monroe county in 1852. His wife came from Ohio. They conducted a furniture and undertaking establishment which later was taken over by Ed Schneider, their son, who conducted it until his death. After the death of Mrs. Schneider, nee Bertha Lotz, a nephew of Mrs. Schneider, Alois Meyer became the owner and proprietor.

Mr. Henckler's paternal grandparents were Carl (Charles) and Charlotte Reis, nee Schoepferketter. Mrs. Reis came from St. Louis and Mr. Reis from Germany. He was a well-known barber in the early days of Columbia.

Mrs. Henckler's husband, Fred Henckler, was born in Columbia and attended the public school here. He has worked for the Missouri-Pacific for 35 years. He and his wife are members of St. Paul Church of Christ. He is a member of the Brotherhood, a Turner, an Odd Fellow and a member of the Ancient and Mystic Order of Samaritans.

Mr. Henckler's father was Fred Henckler, his mother, Lizzetta Henckler, nee Lotz. Mr. Henckler was postmaster of Columbia. He was a blacksmith by trade. Charles Henckler and Fred H. Henckler served as sheriffs of Monroe county; Charles in 1850 and F. H. in 1860.

Charles Henckler, Fred's great grandfather, was a native of Germany. He was a cabinet maker and then a Justice of the Peace. On the maternal side, Mrs. Henckler's grandparents were Jacob and Barbara Lotz, nee Kolb. On the paternal side his grandparents were Ferdinand and Louisa Henckler, nee Eckert. All were born in Germany.

Charles Henckler in 1853 was admitted to the bar. He was a special pleader and a partner of Thomas Quick and H. C. Talbott, secretary to Wm. R. Morrison of Waterloo. He fought in the Mexican War and was wounded in battle. He died in 1878.

Mrs. Henckler's father, Charles Schneider, was postmaster of Columbia, as was her husband's father, Fred Henckler. Mrs. Henckler is a member of St. Paul Church of Christ, the Church Choir and the Guild. She is a Rebekah and a member of the Eastern Stars and White Shrine.

The Fred Hencklers have one son, Gene F., who is married to the former Marguerite Ludwig. They have one son, Gene.

## THE GUNDLACH FAMILY

One of the influential men of Columbia in the year 1859 was John Gundlach. He assisted in procuring the Town charter. He was a Trustee of the town the year Columbia was organized and up to 1861. He served as Trustee again from 1863 to 1867. He was chosen Mayor of the Town from 1865 to 1866 and again from 1867 to 1869. He helped to draw up the rules and regulations which were to govern Columbia through the years. The men who served at that time met in the morning, and if they did not finish their work that day met again the next day. This John Gundlach was Mrs. E. H. Gundlach's grandfather and great-grandfather of Monroe Gundlach.

John Gundlach was born in Germany in the Village of Cronberg, near Frankfurt on the Main, in the Duchy of Nassau. He was born in 1825, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gundlach, nee Schauer. His father was a farmer, a cooper, and also a brewer for the town of Cronberg. When John was 18 the family came to America, landing at New York in 1844. They found their way to Belleville where an uncle lived, bought land and began farming. In 1849 John married Anna Ehrhard, a native of the Duchy of Nassau. In 1855 he started a brewery in Belleville. In 1856 he came to Columbia and started a brewery here which proved successful. He had two children, William and Anna. Anna later became the wife of Maximilian Wagner. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner were Mrs. E. H. Gundlach's parents.

The Gundlach house built in 1857 which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heisler, was the home of John Gundlach and Philip Peter Gundlach, E. H. Gundlach's father and John Gundlach's brother. John and his family lived on one side of the beautiful house and Philip Peter and his family lived on the other side. They sold it to Ernst Grosse in 1873 and the Grosse family lived in it for many years.

Mrs. Gundlach vividly remembers this house, bustling with energy, bubbling with laughter, and noisy with the play of children. It was a spacious house, which held two families comfortably.

Later two of these children were married. Edward H. Gundlach married Emilie Wagner, daughter of Maximilian and Anna Wagner, nee Gundlach. They had three children, one of whom survives, Monroe of this city. Mrs. Gundlach's sister, Mrs. Minna Parmegiani lives in Los Angeles.

E. H. Gundlach acquired the Brewery formerly owned by John and Philip Peter Gundlach, from Mrs. Anna Wagner in 1903 and operated it until the advent of prohibition. After repeal E. H. Gundlach and a group of St. Louis men started modernizing the building, but construction costs proved prohibitive and work ceased.

Then a group of Belleville men acquired it and reorganized and remodeled it, converting it to a distillery. It is known as the Columbia American Distillery. Herman Lorenz is in charge of the plant which at this time is not in operation.

E. H. Gundlach, the original owner of the Brewery, passed away, and his son Monroe has operated a filling station for many years at a site opposite the old family brewery which has been in the Gundlach family for four generations.

## MRS. SYBILLA VAN LUIK

Sybilla Van Luik, nee Freitag, one of our Senior Citizens, 90 and past, reminisces for our readers.

She is as bright as a silver dollar, her mind clear, and she can still do a good day's work.

Her mother belonged to the Menner family. Her father was Ferdinand Freitag. They lived on a Menner farm.

When she was 22 they moved to Columbia to a brick house where the Grossman house is now located.

At the age of 12 she worked as a nursemaid at Joseph Stoll's, friends and neighbors of the family, as were the Wenzel Soukops and the Proctors.

At 14 Sybilla worked for the Henry Huchs, then the proprietor of the Star Mill. She talked of their beautiful home with marquetry oak floors and beautiful furnishings. They even had a fountain in the front yard, she recalls, which she had to scrub every week as well as tend the rock garden and paint the brick walk with brick paint, made from a bucket of brick dust dissolved in water and applied with a broom. All good Columbia housekeepers followed this procedure. Of course, the usual rain spoiled the effect, but you did it over again for work disturbed no one in the old days.

The Huchs were lavish entertainers, and Mrs. Van Luik recalls the evening parties the Huchs had. Later Adolph Lambrecht, an emigre from Switzerland married Miss Lena Huch. The Lambrechts were the first to have a club house in the country where they entertained often.

Sybilla attended the Sand Bank School where James McKee was the teacher.

She married George Van Luik, a steel molder. They lived in St. Louis for a while, but later moved back to Columbia. They had two children, George of Columbia and Adolph of Chicago. Mrs. Van Luik also raised a daughter of her husband by a previous marriage. She is now Mrs. Lorane Stacy of Kirkwood, Mo. Mrs. Van Luik has one sister, Mrs. Frances Fullhorst of St. Louis.

The Van Luiks came from Holland. They lived near the Turner Park. Another Dutch family were the Joseph Van Guests (pronounced Fan' gest). Mr. Van Guest was the head waiter at Koerner's at St. Louis, a world famous restaurant.

Mrs. Van Luik recalls that on February of 1879 a tornado hit Columbia. It passed through the Evangelical Cemetery, knocking down tombstones, then unroofing the Freitag house and moving a new barn built by the Klotzes, next door to Freitag's, off its base. This is about where the B. D. Middletons live. The Freitags sought refuge in a little summer kitchen in the rear of the house and were safe.

Mrs. Van Luik prizes very highly, a black silk shawl, her mother's wedding shawl. It is heavily embroidered in red flowers, and is as good as the day it was purchased 120 years ago.

She remembers when you could pick dewberries by the tubful close to Columbia.

But her most vivid recollection is of "Bilder" Joe Wise, a saintly man who sold seeds, herbs, rosaries and holy pictures at his log cabin situated on what is now Catholic Church property. Vividly she remembers the pungent scent of the "Hamburger Brust Tea" he sold as a sure specific for colds. She also remembers a little candy and school supply house run by a Mr. and Mrs. Stark, in a little shop and home where Ferdinand Rohm now lives. It was a two-room brick house. You went down one step to the brick floored kitchen. Mr. Clark was a snuff sniffer, and this so fascinated Mrs. Van Luik that she went there often for penny candies.

Although Mrs. Van Luik recently celebrated her 90th birthday with an open house, she is hale and hearty, still a pretty little woman who wears her clothes well. She is so active that her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Van Luik with whom she lives, have to be a bit stern when she elects to wash windows or do some other dangerous household chore. She is a dear little lady. May she live to reach the century mark.



## CARL A. REIS

Carl A. Reis, a member of the Historical Committee of the Centennial Association, was born in Columbia. He was the son of Louis and Anna Reis. He graduated from the Columbia school and attended business college. His wife is a graduate of the Columbia High School. On the paternal side his grandparents were Carl and Charlotte Reis, nee Schoepferketter, and on the maternal side Joseph and Josephine Schuler, all early settlers of Columbia.

He was married to Miss Hilda Habermehl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Habermehl, nee Einwich. Mrs. Reis' maternal grandparents were Johann and Dorothea Einwich; her paternal grandparents, Joseph and Anna Habermehl. The Reis and Habermehl ancestors all came from Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Reis have four children: Mrs. Rose Marie Nottmeier, Donald, Robert and David.

Mr. Reis served his city as alderman from 1932-36, and very creditably, too, for he was far-seeing as well as practical. He is employed as Secretary and Business Assistant to the President of the Missouri Pacific Employees' Hospital Association at St. Louis.

Both Mr. Reis and his wife are members of the Immaculate Conception Church and are active workers for the parish. Mr. Reis is a member of the Holy Name Society, the Knights of Columbus, the Missouri Hospital Association and the Ludwig Organ Club. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees.

Carl's grandfather, Joseph Schuler, was a trustee of the Town of Columbia from 1880-1885 and his paternal grandfather, Carl or Charles Reis served in the same capacity from 1897-1899.

## HERBERT J. VOGT

Herbert J. Vogt, chairman of the Ways and Means committee, of the Columbia Centennial Association, and also a member of the Historical committee, is the son of Lorenz A. and Elizabeth Vogt, nee Vogt. He was born in Columbia January 6, 1906. He was educated in the Immaculate Conception grade school and graduated from the Columbia high school. He is a member of the Immaculate Conception church. He is past president of the Chamber of Commerce. Other affiliations are Columbia Gymnastic Association and board of directors of the First National Bank. He is the owner and manager of the Columbia Grain and Seed Company.

He was married to Laura Stillman. They have two children, David and Arlene. Mrs. Vogt's grandmother's people were French, migrating from Alsace-Lorraine. Her grandmother's name was Clodon (pronounced Glodo).

Mr. Vogt's father, Lorenz A. Vogt, came from Burksville, Illinois. He was a school teacher and taught in the Sand Bank school for twelve years and in the Columbia school for seven years. His grandparents on both sides came from Germany. His maternal great-grandparents, Leonard and Margaret Petri also came from Germany. They settled on what is now known as the Ben Weilbacher farm in 1838. They came with the first German settlers to Columbia. His maternal grandparents Anton and Elizabeth Vogt lived near Whiteside Station, close to a "spring of lasting water". It must have been an Indian camp as countless Indian relics were found there by the Vogt children.

Herbert J. Vogt, the subject of this sketch, helped in the Vogt store, run by his mother. He later started his own business, the Columbia Grain and Seed Co. first owned by Mr. Vogt and the late Alfred H. Vogt and Edward C. Giffhorn.

## MISS RUTH KUERGELEIS

Miss Ruth Kuergeleis, secretary of the Centennial Association, was born in St. Louis, Mo., the daughter of William F. and Meta (Hoffmann) Kuergeleis. With her parents she came to Columbia from St. Louis. She is a graduate of the Columbia High School, and was an accounting major at Washington University. She is now the assistant cashier of the Monroe National Bank of Columbia.

She has always been interested in affairs of a civic nature, serving on the Columbia Library Board and was a Girl Scout leader and a troop committee member.

She is Past Worthy High Priestess of Mission Shrine No. 102, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem. She served as district deputy of this order during the past year. She is Guardian Secretary of Bethel 65, Job's Daughters.

## C. A. HACKER

C. A. Hacker is one of the incorporators and vice president of the Columbia Centennial Association. He is also in charge of scheduling Centennial events.

He was born at Marissa, Illinois, June 17, 1901, the son of Henry Hacker and his wife Katherine, nee Tiederman.

He was married to Miss Audrey Krupp of Belleville, Illinois. They have three sons, Keith, Kenyon and Jerry, all living in Columbia.

Mr. Hacker came to Columbia in 1933, and served as cashier of the First National Bank for fourteen years. For the past eight years he has been the president of the bank and a director.

Before coming to Columbia he served as treasurer of the Village of Marissa for ten years. In Columbia while the high school was being enlarged and reorganized he served as the president of the school board from 1940 to 1952.

He is a Past Master of Columbia Lodge No. 471 A. F. and A. M., and a member of the Rotary Club. He is a member of the United Church of Christ of Columbia.

## DRUM CORPS

The Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary Drum and Bugle Corps was one of the fine musical units which attracted much attention wherever it went. It was sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans and Mrs. Gus Goeckeler, Sr., was one of the moving spirits in its organization.

Mrs. Fred Henckler was the drum major. She served from 1929 to 1935. St. Louis instructors trained the corps. Their costumes were outstanding. They wore pleated white serge skirts and scarlet coats, trimmed with gold braid. They wore Hussar caps. Mrs. Henckler wore a white serge suit, high white boots and a white Hussar hat and gloves.

They appeared at all the Homecomings, school picnics and Columbia affairs.

Once when the Columbia Commercial Club made a Good Will tour of the county and adjacent cities they took the Drum Corps with them. One hundred automobiles made up the caravan. The Drum Corps paraded and drew rounds of applause. The Good Will tour included stops at Belleville, Millstadt, Freeburg, New Athens, Marissa, Sparta, Steeleville, Evansville, Red Bud, Chester and Waterloo. The corps with its twenty pretty girls, beautifully costumed was introduced by Mayor Fred G. Eapp, who was then Mayor of Columbia. They were given ovations at the cities where they played.

They also played in the N. R. A. parade at St. Louis the line of march ten miles long. They also played at a St. Louis Police Circus in conjunction with the Police Band.

## "EAGLE CLIFFS"

### STEPHEN MILES

An old burying ground, the Miles cemetery, is of great historical interest. It is situated on the brow of the bluffs overlooking the fertile river bottom land. Going up the Dug Hollow road to the cemetery and wandering about you will find the tombstones of Judge Shadrach Bond, uncle of the governor, the Moredocks, the Shooks, the Jameses, the Vorises, the Alexanders and others prominent in Monroe County history. It was here in 1858 that Stephen Miles I erected a large and costly stone and marble vault for himself, his family and descendants, under the care and direction of the oldest male heir of the family. It cost \$25,000, a fabulous sum in that day. A long time ago the tomb was opened by vandals, seeking the jewels which were supposed to have been buried with the Miles family. The tomb is now sealed.

It is said that Miles could stand on the hill and say, "Here, as far as the eye can reach, the land belongs to me." Then he would go back to his beautiful home at the foot of the bluffs which is situated at what was then known as Eagle Cliffs. The post office was there, a general store, an agricultural implement shop and the Miles residence. It is a pretentious one mirroring the affluence which was once the Miles'.

It is a two-story house, fifty-seven feet long, with twelve rooms, twenty-eight doors and thirty-one windows. A veranda extends the entire length of the front of the house. A huge entry hall with an open staircase leading to the upstairs, leads also into two spacious rooms on either side of the hall downstairs, each being 18 x 20 feet. In these rooms are enormous fireplaces, so huge that shelves have been built into the sides. Rooms not so large are in back of these, and what was once a porch is now enclosed. At either end of the back are rooms where once the colored mammys stayed who took care of the children. These mammys were privileged in the old days, and had better quarters than the other slaves who worked in the fields.

In the rear are also quaint staircases, winding dizzily upwards, with two landings and turns which lead to the many bedrooms upstairs.

The house itself is constructed of solid oak and walnut with weather boards of walnut. No nails are used in the construction for the builders tenoned and mortised. The house has withstood the storms and stresses of 115 years, for it was thought to have been built in 1844 or earlier. It is situated on Claim 322 Survey 399 in the Bottom. The Miles Cemetery is recorded as Claim 321, Survey 400.

It has been said that the land for the home was purchased from Shadrach Bond, first governor of Illinois, but this could not be substantiated, even when a check of the story was made with Edward Miles of Carbondale, although he too, knew of the story.

Miles married Lucretia Shook, beautiful daughter of a Moredock precinct family.

Edward Miles' grandmother's name was Mary Tyrell. Mr. Miles' middle name is Vieux Temps, as was his father's name. Mr. Miles has no idea of the meaning of the name. His grandmother, after the death of Edward Miles' grandfather, Stephen Miles II, married Thomas Quick. His mother's name was Chloe Frazier.

After the passing of the Miles family the settlement was bought by Isaac Eberman, farmer and wheat thrasher, in 1875. Eberman came to Monroe county in 1827, married Nancy Hill. She passed away and Teresa Carpenter became his second wife. Eberman and J. B. Smith of Smith's Landing were business partners. They bought,

sold and shipped wheat by river boats to the Port of St. Louis, their favorite boat being the "Emma Abbott". Grain in that section of the country was brought to Eagle Cliffs to be weighed, stored or sold. Some land was still in the possession of the Miles heirs, but most had been sold. The first Miles was fabulously wealthy, the second modestly so and succeeding generations not so prosperous.

Issac Eberman was also a bridge builder. When the Eads Bridge, spanning the Mississippi river at St. Louis was in the planning stage, he made a model of a covered bridge and submitted it to the bridge committee. His model was not accepted, but James Eads' was. Eberman's model is still in the Miles Homestead which is now in possession of the Fred Laub heirs. Mr. and Mrs. Stemler live here, Mrs. Stemler being the former Edna Laub. Fred Laub bought this property after the death of Isaac Eberman in 1893. The other Laub heirs are Mrs. Arthur Schmidt, nee Hilda Laub, and Arthur Laub. All three of the Laub children were born in this home and Mrs. Stemler has never lived any other place. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bergmann, Sr. lived in a part of this spacious house for a time when the Ebermans lived there and here their daughter Frances, now Mrs. Fred Laub, was born in 1892.

In the house were left many bookkeeping sets, showing in detail and beauty the immense business interests of the Miles family and the succeeding Eberman and Laub families. A heritage from the Miles family is a powder horn, a shot bag of tooled leather, and a musket of ancient vintage. The door keys of the house are enormous and these are still in use. A slab of marble from the Miles tomb is on the premises. Distant relatives of the Laubs were Martin and John Horr who were oxen drivers for Stephen Miles I. A visit to this house is like turning back the years and finding yourself in the exciting days of our pioneer ancestors.

### TRANSPORTATION

In the very early days of Columbia, the Mississippi river was the only avenue of transportation. The country was an untamed wilderness. Then the Indians, little by little, hewed a trail, a mere footpath. As time went on this trail passed through Columbia, and with the simultaneous settling of Cahokia and Kaskaskia it became known as the Kaskaskia Trail.

This Trail became the mail and stage coach route from St. Louis to Waterloo, Red Bud and later southerly points to Kaskaskia. Columbia was the half-way stop for passengers en route to Red Bud. Horses were changed here and travelers refreshed themselves at the Franklin Tavern, known as the Buck Tavern and still later as Juengling's. In the winter the chilled travelers gathered around the huge fireplaces; and in the summer, beer brewed by Philip Schmidt and John Gundlach, cooled the parched throats of the passengers. Fares were computed by the drivers by means of milestones of gray marble with Roman numerals thereon, and your fare was so much a milestone. Some Columbians today remember seeing these stones.

For local travel, if you had no horse, you could go to a local livery stable and hire a "rig". August F. Weinel operated a livery stable as did "Jim" Warnock. Mr. Warnock bought a barn at the World's Fair, and set it up on the present site of E. H. Stumpf's home at 706 Bottom Ave. Weinel's had a hack which made the St. Louis World's Fair by ferrying across the Mississippi on the Davis street ferry.

Horses were treasured possessions in the old days and a horse thief if caught, met with summary justice. He was taken, dragged in the better word, to what was known as the horse thief tree and strung up without benefit of a trial. This tree still stands at the intersection of the main road and the old Quarry road, which passes Oscar Bremser's house.

Now comes the era of the railroad. The Cairo and St. Louis was the first. It was chartered February 16, 1865 and ten years later, March 1, 1875 it was completed. It connected East St. Louis and Cairo and had 151 miles of track.

At the time of organization, the company decided to build a narrow gauge, three foot road which would be cheaper to operate. Contracts were let, and local aid promised but the financial panic of 1873 caused local aid to be withdrawn, and it was placed in the hands of a receiver February 1, 1882, when it was transferred to the St. Louis and Cairo R. R. and conducted by them about 1883. It utilized seven miles of the East St. Louis and Carondelet Railway with a third rail from East St. Louis to East Carondelet.

In 1886 the road was bought by the Mobile and Ohio railroad and the following year it was changed to a standard track. In 1901 the next railroad built through Columbia precinct was an eastern division of the Iron Mountain R. R. called the St. Louis Valley R. R. Later it was transferred to the Gould system. August 13, 1940 the road became the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio. In 1906 the Village of Columbia granted the East St. Louis, Columbia and Waterloo Electric Co. a franchise to construct an electric railway through Columbia, but right-of-way litigation and other difficulties held back the construction, and it was completed August 7, 1912.

The automobile became another mode of transportation. This mode required better roads, so on April 5, 1923 grading began on State Route 3 through Columbia. Construction began on July 3, 1923 and the road was finished by November 19, 1923, thus replacing the old village macadam streets.

In 1932 the East St. Louis, Columbia and Waterloo Railway Company were authorized to discontinue passenger service and on July 3, 1936 the Illinois Commerce Commission authorized the company to discontinue all its public utility services and the present line, the St. Louis Red Bud Motor bus line took its place, now called the Gulf Transit Company.

### HERMAN J. FRIEDRICH

To Herman J. Friedrich, carpenter, contractor, builder, who passed away November 29, 1958 belongs the distinction of being among the first in Columbia to realize there was a need for a modern home building program — the subdivision as we know it today. He set about to establish a business that would make sub-division building possible. He knew the business from the ground up, for he was a carpenter of the old school.

He began business in 1919 with John Luetzelshwab, Millstadt contractor. Later John L. Schmidt worked with him as did William Brand. Then Anton J. Wierschem joined forces with him and they took over the contracting business of John L. Schmidt which they operated for seven years until Mr. Wierschem moved to Colorado. Then Mr. Friedrich's two sons worked for him and they operated the business individually until 1950 when they effected a partnership which continued until 1958 when they incorporated.

The officers of the corporation now are: Walter H. Friedrich, president; Herman G. Friedrich, vice president

and treasurer and Joseph J. Volkert, secretary.

The first subdivision they built was Friedrich place, then the First Addition to Friedrich Place. In partnership with Leo A. Weibacher, Columbia Hills was developed. This subdivision is located on the hills overlooking Columbia. Columbia Acres, Inc., is another subdivision where many beautiful homes were erected.

Recently the corporation purchased the old Wilson farm now owned by Miss Josephine Burroughs. It consists of 110 acres, and plans are under way to develop it some time in the future. Miss Burroughs, a sister of Mrs. Joshua Wilson, who owned the land, is public spirited and in order that Columbia might grow, she sold the land which for so long had been owned by the Wilsons. A part of it is in the corporate limits of Columbia.

The Friedrichs are directors in the newly laid out subdivision, Cascade Hills, which touches land where some of our first Columbians, the Piggotts, built a fort in the late 1700's. There is room in the new subdivision for over 200 homes with modern facilities available.

The company is not interested in mass production of the small home, preferring to build the substantial, well designed modern home.

They have recently erected a very modern office and show room at 123 Rapp Avenue. There are shown and sold all the modern accessories that make the house of today so comfortable.

Mrs. Herman J. Friedrich, nee Frances Schaffer, who survives her husband, has four children: Walter, Herman G., Mary Ann, wife of Keith Haacker and Rita, wife of Le Roy Davis.

### JOHN A. DAAB

John A. Daab, owner of Daab's Drug Store here in Columbia, was born on a farm near Columbia. It was on the St. Clair-Monroe County line, the house being in Monroe and the barn in St. Clair county.

He was the son of Fred Daab and his wife, nee Arres. He was one of ten children. The following are the names of the children: Mrs. August (Mary) Mueller, Waterloo; John, Dan, Gus and Eddie deceased, Fred, Mrs. John (Dell) Tunze, Jacob, Mrs. O. J. (Alyda) Rexroth of Waterloo and Henry.

In 1896 after the Daab family had moved to Columbia, John went to work at the John J. Schaeffert Drug Store, located where the Daab Drug Store is located today. When Mr. Schaeffert sold out to Herman Rose in 1899 John continued to work at the drug store and worked there for a total of twelve years, serving his apprenticeship there. Desiring to complete his education he went to work at the Meyer Drug Company at St. Louis where he worked for two years. Then he went to Indiana where he attended the Indianapolis School of Pharmacy for two years and graduated. He came back to St. Louis and found employment at the drug store operated by William C. Lieser, a former Columbian.

When he learned that Herman Rose wanted to sell out he purchased the drug store. This was in 1918 and he has operated it very successfully ever since.

He was married to Miss Adele Schein of Waterloo. They had three children, Mrs. Adele Elbaum of Kokomo, Indiana, Mrs. Vida Goldgar of New York City, and a son who died in infancy. His wife also died. He later married, Mrs. Edna Barlow, and she too passed to the Great Beyond.

Daab's Drug Store is the only pharmacy Columbia has and John is a familiar figure to all Columbians.

## MRS. EMMA FIEGE

Mrs. Emma Fiege, nee Wilde, widow of George Fiege, was born in Columbia, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wilde, nee Mary Schmidt.

Mrs. Fiege's paternal grandfather was Nickolaus Wilde, who was born in Germany, Aug. 11, 1797 and died in 1875. Her grandmother Wilde was born in 1808 and died in 1882. Both grandfather and grandmother Wilde were born in Germany at Koenigsreich, Bayern.

Grandfather Nickolaus Wilde came to America in 1853, bringing his wife, Helena, nee Ferkel and his children, Barbara, 19, John, 18, Henry, 15, Philip, 13, Paul 10, Helena, 4 and an infant. Mr. Wilde was 55 when he came to America.

Mrs. Fiege has some letters relative to coming to America from a Jacob Wilde who was staying with Frederick Ferkel at Jefferson Barracks in 1850. After an exchange of letters from the old world to the new world and back again, Grandfather Wilde decided to try his luck in the new world with his family. His passport, a treasured memento, in Mrs. Fiege's hands, sets the time of leaving Germany at February 1853.

Philip Wilde, Mrs. Fiege's father, had a tin shop, first in the old rock house the Catholic Sisters lived in; then in the building where Mrs. Fiege's confectionery was located.

George Fiege, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fiege, and Emma Wilde were married. Edward Fiege, father of George, was a shoemaker in a small shop on the corner where now Schorbs live. George learned the barber trade in St. Louis at Leonard Strassner's barber shop on South Broadway. Mr. Strassner was the father of Mrs. Joseph J. Volkert, Sr. and grandfather of Elmer, Christ, Joseph J. Jr., August and Ralph Volkert. After George finished his apprenticeship at Strassner's he set up a barber shop where George Van Luik now lives.

The house Mrs. Fiege lives in is 107 years old. The abstract of her property shows it passed from John Morgan to Jacob Beck in 1852; to Jacob Mild, to Henry Wilde, to Conrad Miller and then to Mrs. Emma Fiege.

The homes of Philip Schmidt, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Burneson; the one owned by Nickolaus Wilde, now owned by Mrs. Ella Grasshaw; and the Joseph Schuler house, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gilbreth, and the beer cellar at the foot of Columbia hill are all registered in the Library of Congress at Washington, D. C. They are examples of excellent German architecture and are pictured in various books of architecture. The pictures of these houses appear in this history.

The children of John L. Schmidt: Earl, Chester, Orville and Luan Crawley are great-grandchildren of Philip Schmidt, who owned the Brewery in back of the Philip Schmidt, now Burneson house.

There is also an arched cellar near this house where beer was stored, before it was rolled down the hill to the beer cellar in the side of the hill. There are two large rooms in this "lagering" cellar, which the picture in this history will show.

These historic places will be marked for the Centennial, Mrs. Dorothy Eppinger being the Chairman of Historic Houses.

## THE ROSE FAMILY

One of the very interesting families in Columbia is the Rose family. The members of the family were practically all professional people, doctors, nurses, druggists, authors and teachers.

Dr. William Rose was born February 12, 1848 at Claus

Thal in the Hartz Mountains, Germany. He came to this country at the age of 13. He came to St. Louis and made his home with his uncle, Dr. Edward Rose. He lived there for three years. He worked in a drug store, learning the art of compounding medicines and went to medical school taking up the profession of medicine. He attended Christian Bros. College and the Missouri School of Medicine. He graduated from the Keokuk, Iowa School of Medicine and became a registered physician and surgeon in the State of Illinois. He soon had a large practice for he was an excellent physician. He was a hard worker and traveled all over the countryside. He did a great deal of his sleeping en route to call on his patients for the doctor went to see his patients and hospitals were little used except in extreme emergencies. His hostler and driver was Friedrich Ernst.

On March 12, 1869 Dr. Rose was united in marriage with Miss Lena Freckman of St. Louis. The marriage was a very happy one for Mrs. Rose was always a wonderful wife and mother. As the wife of a country doctor and business man, for the doctor conducted a drug store too, patients and patrons who came from out of town came and generally found their way to the spacious and beautiful Rose home with its acres of lawn. Mrs. Rose was never sure just how many guests she would have for meals, but all were entertained most graciously. The Roses had thirteen children, but three died early in life. The children who grew up were: Dr. Fred Rose, who located in Millstadt; Dr. William Rose, Jr., who succeeded his father in Columbia; Herman L. Rose, St. Louis; Dr. E. S. Rose, a dentist of Dupo; Oliver Rose of Columbia; Mrs. Ida Cannady, wife of Dr. Edward Cannady of East St. Louis; Mrs. Louise Wilk, wife of Rev. W. F. Wilk of St. Louis; Mrs. Bertha Hollingsworth, wife of Charles Hollingsworth of California; Mrs. Emily Bowler of St. Louis and Mrs. Ella Rohm of Columbia, wife of Ferdinand Rohm.

Dr. Rose was a busy man, but still had time to serve his community, for he was a member of the Columbia Board of Education for many years and also President of the Board.

He died July 26, 1896. Columbia mourned for him for he was so much a part of Columbia that his passing left an aching void. His wife died Dec. 18, 1939.

This is the roster of the Rose family who were professional men and women affiliated with the medical profession: Dr. Wm. Rose, Sr. had two sons, Fred of Millstadt and William of Columbia, both doctors. One son, Herman, was a druggist at Columbia. He was Chief Pharmacist at the St. Louis City Hospital, but is now retired; Dr. Rose's daughter, Mrs. Bertha Hollingsworth was a Red Cross nurse. She was in charge of Army Base Hospital 65 at Brest, France in World War I. Dr. Edward Rose, son of Dr. Wm. Rose, Sr. was a dentist and orthodontist at Dupo, Illinois. He had three sons: Dr. Raymond Rose, a physician and surgeon and anesthetist at Weston Springs, Illinois; another son is Dr. Wm. Rose of Dupo, physician and surgeon; his brother is Dr. Edward Rose, a dentist at Clayton, Mo.

Dr. Edward Cannady of East St. Louis is a grandson of the first Dr. Rose. Miss Esther Rose, daughter of the second Dr. Wm. Rose and his wife Adelia, nee Weinell, is a registered nurse. Mrs. Florence Eschelmann nee Florence Rohm, daughter of Ferdinand Rohm and his wife Ella, and granddaughter of the first Dr. Rose is a registered nurse. Dr. Fred Rose, Sr. has a son, Dr. Frederick Rose of Belleville, who is a physician and surgeon.

This truly is a remarkable family, dedicated to serving mankind.

## DR. FREDERICK WILLIAM GEBHARDT

Dr. Frederick William Gebhardt, one of Columbia's physicians and surgeons, came to Columbia with his wife and family in 1953.

Both he and his wife and three of their four children, Felicitas Irene, Klaus and Mark D. were born in Germany. Their youngest child, Claudia, was born in this country.

They came to the United States in 1949, locating in St. Louis. Later they located at Herculaneum, Mo., and then at Valmeyer, Illinois.

Dr. Gebhardt is the son of Frederick and Anna Gebhardt, of Cologne, Germany. His father served for three terms as postmaster of Biedenkas, a suburb of Cologne. His father was a musician, specializing on the trumpet and viola.

Dr. Gebhardt is a graduate in medicine of the University of Marburg. He also attended Helsinki University at Helsinki, Finland.

Dr. Gebhardt married Miss Ingeborg Gress, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Gress of Kassel, Germany. Dr. Gress is a musician and composer and well known to Columbians because of his visits here.

Mrs. Gebhardt is a graduate in music of Kassel University and is a concert pianist. She also was a voice major at the University.

Dr. Gebhardt practiced in Germany from 1939 to 1949. He served in the German Army in the campaign against the Russians, and was thrice wounded.

One of the happiest days in the lives of the family was that day in 1955 when they officially became citizens of their adopted country — The United States of America.

## MRS. CAROLINE VOGEL

Mrs. Caroline Vogel, nee Loehr, widow of the late Dr. Frederick George Vogel, prominent Waterloo physician, makes her home here with her son, Dr. E. G. Vogel. She has lived here since 1942. Dr. Vogel has been a dentist in Columbia since the early 1900's.

Mrs. Caroline Vogel and her husband, Dr. Frederick Vogel, had four children, E. G., Victor, Viola and Rose. Only Dr. Vogel survives.

The younger Dr. Vogel married Miss Margaret Illert of Waterloo. They have three children, Helen and Frederick at home and Mrs. Viola Frank of Waterloo.

The Vogel family originated in Germany. Dr. Frederick Vogel's parents were German emigrants and settled in Pennsylvania, later coming to Illinois.

Mrs. Caroline Vogel, who is 85, is still hale and hearty.

## FERDINAND KREMMEL

Ferdinand Kimmel came to Columbia in 1918 after farming in the American Bottom for many years. He came from Switzerland and settled in the Bottom, marrying Miss Bernadine Schmidt. They had eight children, seven boys and one girl. The children were: Ferdinand, George, Roy who died; and Gus, Louis, John and Harry, all farmers. The lone daughter, Cora, is the wife of Louis Ritter of Columbia.

Louis Ritter's father was a barber here as was Louis Ritter, jr. The elder Mr. Ritter's wife was Miss Lizzetha Riebeling. Their children were: Mrs. Louise Althoff, Mrs.

Lucretia Schueler, Mrs. Laura Breidecker of Columbia and Mrs. Lucinda Jones of Whitehall, Illinois. Two daughters, Mrs. Jacob Habermehl (Lizetha) and Mrs. Lenora Schlemmer have passed away.

## CHARLES DIEHL, JR.

Charles Diehl, Jr. is the son of Charles Diehl, Sr. who for many years was a Bluff farmer. His wife was the former Katie Fidler, who also lived on the Bluff. Their parents were all emigrants from Germany.

Charley, as we all know Chas. Diehl, Jr., found an interesting career because he lost his job at Dupon during the railroad strike. He puzzled over how to make a living and remembering that as a boy on the farm they grew many vegetables, he decided to raise and sell vegetable plants. This proved lucrative, so he decided to raise potted plants. Later he decided to try flowers for cutting and this proved a good venture, so he decided to raise trees and shrubs.

Uncle Sam called his helpers, his sons, to the army so it was not until after the boys got back from the army that he went into the nursery business which is now a thriving business.

Christian Diehl, Charley's grandfather, was a German immigrant. He was a tailor and learned his trade in the old country. In 1870 he opened a tailor shop in Columbia. Believing he could make more money farming, he purchased a farm on the Bluff. There he prospered. But in 1881 a terrible tragedy befell the family. A crew of thirteen were threshing wheat on the Diehl farm and the steam engine blew up, killing nine of the men at work, including Charley's grandfather. Charley's father rode on horseback to town to get Dr. Wm. Rose, and Joseph Volkert, Sr., who was sitting on the drug store steps, said he never forgot the tragedy written in the eyes of Charley's father.

Charley had three sisters, Sophia, now deceased, wife of George Glaenger; Mary, wife of Herman Heinrich and Emma, wife of Louis Taake.

Charley married Miss Laura Horcher. They have two sons, Norman, who married Caroline Baumer, and LeRoy, who married Ruth Kuehner. LeRoy has a florist shop in Waterloo. LeRoy had studied law and gone to Parks' Aviation College and is a licensed pilot, but rheumatic fever interrupted that career, so he has established a modern florist shop in Waterloo. Norman is in business here, taking over the reins after his father retired about the first of the year.

## OLD HOMES

We wish we had the space to describe the many interesting old houses in Columbia. In a survey taken by Mrs. Dorothy Eppinger, Historical Homes Chairman, she found that Columbia had over 200 houses over a hundred years old.

The houses surveyed were found to be in excellent condition. They are mostly brick houses, for early Columbia had many brick yards. An amusing sidelight is that Columbians always refer to the old Columbia brick as being of inferior quality, yet here are the houses built of this "soft" Columbia brick standing true and strong after a century of use.

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 MRS. EMMA MANN  
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 MR. AND MRS. EARL SCHAEFER  
 JOHN A. DAAB  
 MRS. WILLIAM RAUCH  
 WILLIAM P. CONRAD

## L'ENVOI

In all they wrought, the souls of these still live;  
Their deed, their thought, each brave word bravely said,  
Live past the grave and master it, to give  
The living help and strength when life is fraught  
With sorest need of courage. All the length  
Of years, of time and change, the hopes, the fears,  
The failures and forgetfulness of lives between  
Our lives and theirs, take nothing from their strength.

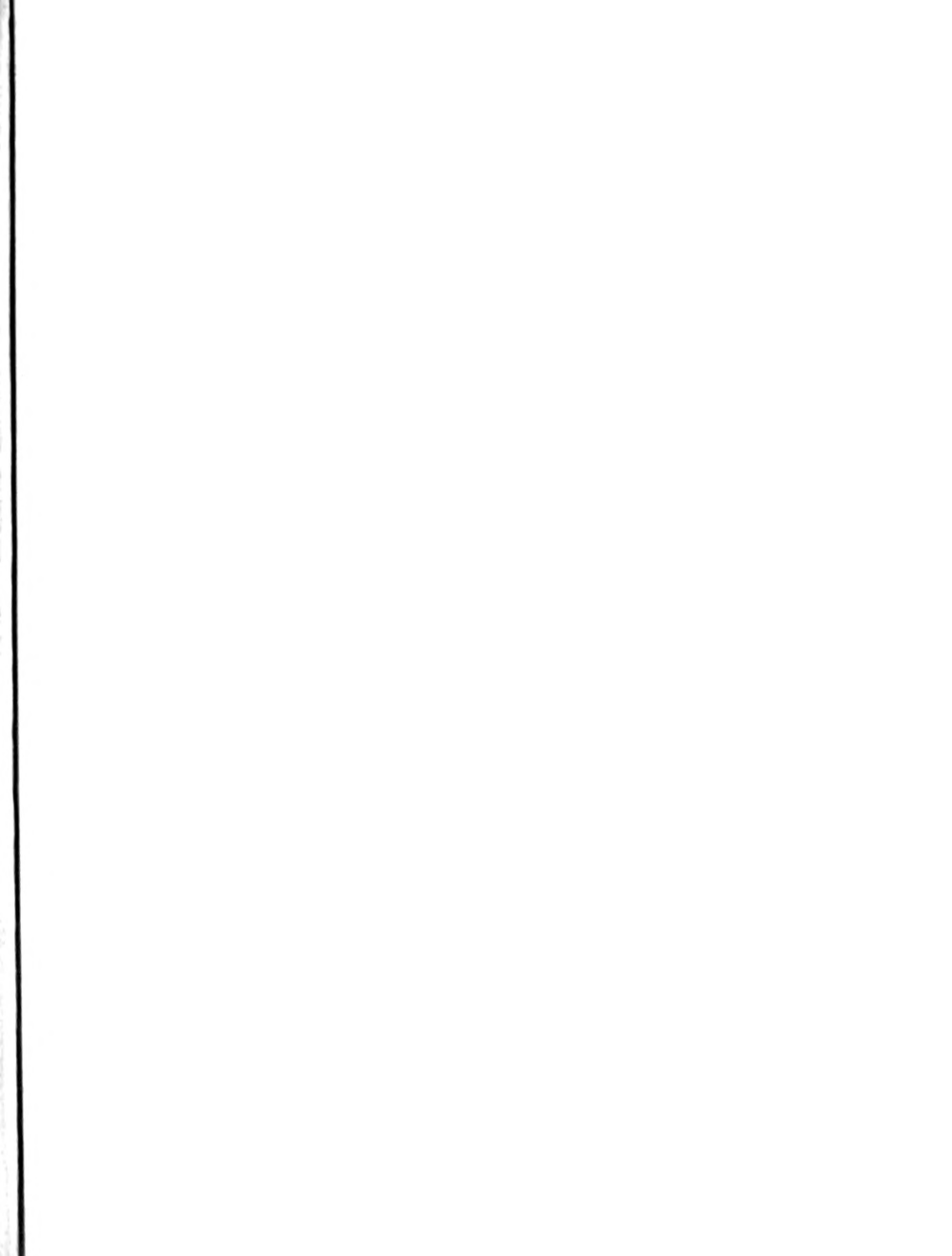
Their life abides. They are not dead. For still  
Our work is done to give them all their will.  
Near and afar, from sea to sea across the land,  
Their light is shed in light of every star,

Blent with the stronger flame of day and made  
Intense, until our eyes are blinded, and betrayed  
By glories of our day, we turn lest we should see  
The dazzling radiance of the things to be.  
When by our aftercomers, it is said  
That we and these are of the old-time dead  
Yet still our work and all their work shall thrive  
To win the years a light that shall not fade  
Nor fail at last the stronger age, whose worth  
From time's old strains and crimes and hopes betrayed,  
Shall wrest the future of the ransomed earth.

William Vincent Byars,  
From "The Axemen-The Artifex." (Mss.)







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